

XENA CONVENTION 2012

"SAY YES"

By  
Katherine Fugate

CAST

(in order of appearance)

TIM OMUNDSON  
DAVID FRANKLIN  
STEVEN SEARS  
XENA BOUNCER\*\*\*  
KATHERINE FUGATE  
CLAUDIA BLACK  
BEVERLY D'ANGELO  
VANESSA MY ASSISTANT  
BRIGID BRANNAGH  
CRYSTAL CHAPPELL  
ADRIENNE WILKINSON  
RENEE O'CONNOR

\*\*\*TO BE CAST FROM THE AUDIENCE

SET

4 mics if possible - standing or handheld  
Preset small folding table, chair.

PROPS

Champagne bottle,  
Laptop, Starbucks  
Wine bottle, wine glass, Red Bull

**XENA CONVENTION: 2012:**

"SAY YES"

By Katherine Fugate

PLACED ON STAGE: Small folding table. Chair. Mics.

START OF SHOW:

CON ANNOUNCER (BACKSTAGE)  
WELCOME KATHERINE FUGATE!!!

HOLD A BEAT FOR ANTICIPATION.

STAGE LEFT: TWO UNIVERSAL STUDIO EXECS - TIM OMUNDSON and  
DAVID FRANKLIN dressed in suits/corporate attire, enter.

TIM and DAVID are shaking their heads, very unhappy.

TIM OMUNDSON  
We can't air that FINALE! THAT WAS  
TERRIBLE! DEPRESSING! AND THERE  
WAS NO LADY KISSING!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
How do we tell Rob Tapert? He  
loves that finale! A Friend In  
Need? We are Studio Executives In  
Need of a Better ENDING!

TIM OMUNDSON  
We can't air it! The Fans with  
hate us! TV Guide will hate us!  
MARY D will hate us! And I don't  
like to be hated. It messes with  
my good hair!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
Obviously, we need a new finale!

TIM OMUNDSON  
One that doesn't take place in  
Japan. I mean, Japan? What the  
hell? This is ANCIENT GREECE!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
And sometimes Ancient Rome.

TIM OMUNDSON  
 THE POINT IS you don't just show up  
 SIX YEARS LATER in JAPAN on the  
 FINAL EPISODE and DRAG OUT some  
 tired old EX-GIRLFRIEND that we've  
 never heard of before and then CHOP  
 OFF WONDER WOMAN'S HEAD!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
 Xena. Not Wonder Woman.

TIM OMUNDSON  
 We need a new finale where Xena  
 keeps her HEAD ON and KISSES her  
 hot girlfriend and they ride off  
 into the sunset together!  
 (beat)  
 You call Tapert!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
 Me?

TIM OMUNDSON  
 I can't upset my good looks with  
 bad news!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
 (takes umbrage)  
 Your good looks?! I used to be a  
 Chippendale! You call Tapert!

STAGE RIGHT: WHEN STEVEN SEARS as ROB TAPERT walks on the  
 OPPOSITE SIDE AS TIM/DAVID'S ENTRANCE.

STEVEN/ROB is very happy and carrying a bottle of champagne.

STEVEN AS ROB  
 Gentleman! I heard you just  
 screened the finale. Amazing work,  
 isn't it? Let's celebrate!

TIM OMUNDSON  
 (to STEVE/ROB)  
 I thought you were in New Zealand.  
 (aside, to David)  
 Didn't you say he was in New  
 Zealand?

DAVID FRANKLIN  
 (aside to Tim)  
 He told me he was in New Zealand.

Tim and David give Steven/Rob their best STONY EXEC FACES.

STEVEN AS ROB

Gentlemen, why the glum faces? The Xena finale will go down in history as one of the best finales of a series ending - ever. Better than Bob Newhart or Six Feet Under or - even The Sopranos!

TIM OMUNDSON

The Sopranos?! Everyone was so excited for that finale! Would Tony make it out alive?! Or would he finally get what was coming to him?! The finale episode is going along fine and then --

TIM HOLDS FOR NOTHING - as The Sopranos ended.

TIM OMUNDSON (CONT'D)

Nothing. Nothing happened. They got no ENDING to the SERIES!

(to Steve/Rob)

You see the problem? No ending.

STEVEN AS ROB

But - I did end the series?!

TIM OMUNDSON

Oh you ended it all right. But you know what your ending was? OH NO HE DIDN'T!!!

Tim nudges David.

DAVID FRANKLIN

Rob. We think the finale needs - some work. We have some notes we'd like you to consider.

STEVEN AS ROB

----I'll consider some trims.

TIM OMUNDSON

We're not talking trims - we're talking ----

WHEN KATHERINE FUGATE walks in DEAD CENTER STAGE. She looks bewildered. Sees all three men.

KATHERINE FUGATE

Hi Rob.

KATHERINE walks up to Tim and David. SHAKES THEIR HANDS.

KATHERINE FUGATE (CONT'D)  
 Hi. I'm Katherine Fugate.  
 (still confused)  
 My agent said you just made an  
 emergency deal for me to write a  
 brand new Xena finale?

STEVE AS ROB  
 WHAT?!

TIM OMUNDSON  
 Just a second please.

TIM SNAPS HIS FINGERS.

A LARGE BOUNCER/XENA FAN walks onto the stage and PICKS UP  
 STEVEN AS ROB and CARTS HIM UPSTAGE (AWAY FROM ACTION).

TIM OMUNDSON (CONT'D)  
 That little problem's been taken  
 care of - now get to writing!

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 But a series finale is a lot of  
 pressure! What do I write?!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
 Anything that looks just like When  
 Fates Collide!

TIM OMUNDSON  
 But no skimping! Have those girls  
 kissing in that jail cell!

TIM and DAVID EXIT OFFSTAGE. (UPSTAGE - BUT AWAY FROM  
 ACTION.)

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 Wow. Okay. But I've already said  
 everything I wanted to say in When  
 Fates Collide. That everything  
 happens for a reason. Because  
 every step that Xena took led her  
 to the love of her life - to  
 Gabrielle. What else?

Katherine starts pacing, like a writer does.

KATHERINE FUGATE (CONT'D)  
 (screams)  
 WHERE IS MY ASSISTANT?

CENTER STAGE: Katherine's beleaguered ASSISTANT VANESSA instantly appears. Carrying a a LAPTOP COMPUTER and a STARBUCKS.

Vanessa opens a laptop and places coffee. Katherine sits. Relieved.

KATHERINE FUGATE (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Assistants.

VANESSA exits, goes upstage.

KATHERINE FUGATE (CONT'D)  
WHERE ARE XENA AND GABRIELLE?

CENTER STAGE: CLAUDIA BLACK (Xena) and BEVERLY D'ANGELO (Gabrielle) appear. Both looking very confused.

CLAUDIA and BEVERLY go downstage, stand next to each other, playing to the audience.

CLAUDIA BLACK  
(bewildered, what the  
hell?)  
Where am I?

KATHERINE FUGATE  
You're in my mind!

CLAUDIA BLACK  
Let's try again. Who am I?

KATHERINE FUGATE  
You're XENA!

CLAUDIA BLACK  
Katherine! Jesus - is that you?!  
Wrong show! Yes, I may be tall,  
dark and gorgeous with jet black  
hair and piercing blue eyes! But  
I'm not Xena. I'm Claudia Black.  
From FARSCAPE and STARGATE!

KATHERINE FUGATE  
Oh. Sorry, Claudia. My mistake.  
But you do have an accent right?

CLAUDIA BLACK  
From Australia! Lucy Lawless is  
from New Zealand! Now, please send  
me back! I was doing an episode of  
HOUSE with this banged up foot!

KATHERINE FUGATE

Just be a good fantasy and say the words I tell you to say!

CLAUDIA BLACK stands very still. Being a good fantasy.

BEVERLY D'ANGELO

Okay. Now I can understand how you got your little cult TV shows all confused and shit, but I'm BEVERLY FUCKING D'ANGELO! I've starred in more movies than your little writer brain can think of! What the hell am I doing here?!

KATHERINE FUGATE

(meekly)

I think you're funny!

BEVERLY D'ANGELO

Then why the hell didn't you blink me into Valentine's Day or New Year's Eve?! Huh?!!

KATHERINE FUGATE

Look, Bev. Can I call you Bev? You're short, blonde and sexy.

BEVERLY D'ANGELO

Keep going.

KATHERINE FUGATE

I need you to be Gabrielle.

BEVERLY D'ANGELO

Before she chops off her hair or after?

KATHERINE FUGATE

I see you've watched the show!

BEVERLY D'ANGELO

I may have. Accidentally. Once or twice. Okay. Those girls are hot! But I don't do TV.

KATHERINE FUGATE

What about Entourage?

BEVERLY D'ANGELO

That's HBO.

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 Okay, well. I'd appreciate it if  
 you stand opposite Xena here and  
 say the lines I tell you to say.  
 This finale is very important to me  
 - and all the fans. I want to get  
 it right!

Katherine sits at the laptop again. Types. Nods to CLAUDIA  
 who says:

CLAUDIA BLACK  
 I love you, Gabrielle.

Katherine types, nods to BEVERLY, who says:

BEVERLY D'ANGELO  
 I love you, Xena.

Katherine stops typing.

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 (pleased with herself)  
 There! That's perfect!

TIM and DAVID yell out:

TIM OMUNDSON AND DAVID FRANKLIN  
 THE FINALE IS TWO HOURS LONG!

TIM OMUNDSON  
 PART 1!

DAVID FRANKLIN  
 PART 2!

Katherine starts to type again. Draws a blank.

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 Shoot! I need inspiration!

UPSTAGE: STEVEN/ROB escapes Xena Bouncer and tries to rush  
 the stage and attack Katherine.

XENA BOUNCER drags him back up stage.

KATHERINE FUGATE (CONT'D)  
 Not that kind of inspiration!

CENTER STAGE: CRYSTAL CHAPPELL and BRIGID BRANNAGH walk on  
 stage. Stand together opposite CLAUDIA and BEVERLY.



BRIGID BRANNAGH

Katherine. You're getting your TV shows mixed up again. I'm on Army Wives. Not Xena.

CRYSTAL CHAPPELL

And I'm on Venice. Which you've never even worked on, so tell the truth. You're drunk, right?

KATHERINE FUGATE

I may have had a little sip or two, but it helps me write.

BRIGID BRANNAGH

(gossipy, to Crystal)

A little sip or two? You have no idea. One time, I got my script and I'm suddenly kicking ass and yelling "I've Got Many Skills" and then out of nowhere, I'm nine months pregnant and dancing in an Army Barrack singing "Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves!"

CRYSTAL CHAPPELL

Oh. Well. Maybe I don't want her to write for Venice.

BRIGID BRANNAGH

Not unless you want to kiss another girl. I have a husband and 2 kids on Army Wives and suddenly in the next scene I'm in a jail cell and my hair's been cut off and I'm kissing Catherine Bell!

CRYSTAL CHAPPELL

Kissing girls ain't so bad.

BRIGID BRANNAGH

Wait?! What?

CRYSTAL CHAPPELL

I mean, I have a husband and two kids at home too, but I have to make a living and Katherine's a pretty good kisser.

BRIGID BRANNAGH

She made you kiss Catherine Bell too?

CRYSTAL CHAPPELL  
 Not Catherine Bell. Katherine -  
 Katherine - that Katherine.

Crystal points at Katherine Fugate.

CRYSTAL CHAPPELL (CONT'D)  
 She told me I'd do what I have to  
 do if I want to be on stage with  
 Beverly D'Angelo. I loved those  
 Vacation movies!

ADRIENNE WILKINSON marches on stage.

ADRIENNE WILKINSON  
 Wait a minute. Katherine told me I  
 had to kiss her if I wanted to be  
 on stage with Johnny Depp!

CLAUDIA BLACK  
 She told me Daniel Craig.

BEVERLY D'ANGELO  
 Justin Bieber.

Crystal/Brigid/Claudia/Beverly/Adrienne all GLARE AT  
 KATHERINE.

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 (taps her forehead)  
 FANTASY! FANTASY! IT'S ALL A  
 FANTASY! ASSISTANT!

VANESSA with a WINE BOTTLE, WINE GLASS and a RED BULL rushes  
 on stage. Pours Katherine some wine. She drinks it.

KATHERINE FUGATE (CONT'D)  
 That's better! So listen, actors.  
 Your job is to ACT. Not question  
 the BRILLIANT albeit slightly  
 ALCOHOLIC WRITER!

BEVERLY D'ANGELO  
 You know what? I'm not having  
 another writer try and RUIN MY  
 CAREER! I can do that myself! I'm  
 out of here!

BEVERLY D'ANGELO walks OFF/UPSTAGE. Leaving CLAUDIA BLACK  
 ALONE.

CLAUDIA BLACK  
 Can I go back to HOUSE?!

KATHERINE FUGATE

NO! Just be quiet everyone. I need to remember what's important. Why the show matters to me and so many other people. Because if I could end the Xena finale anyway I wanted, what would it be?

KATHERINE STARTS TYPING MADLY.

BEAT.

WHEN RENEE O'CONNOR

Walks on stage.

Renee as Gabrielle goes downstage and faces Claudia as Xena.

RENEE O'CONNOR

I will never forget the moment I first saw you. I couldn't breathe. I couldn't speak. There was this fire racing up and down my spine. And I knew my life would be changed forever.

Because when you walked into my village and asked me to travel the world with you - you taught me that everything happens for a reason. That when you get a chance, take it. And if it changes your life, let it. You taught me to embrace my darkness, along with my light. You taught me to risk, to dream, to make mistakes, to dance on tables.

But most of all, Xena, you taught me to be who I am and to tell the truth about myself, no matter what the cost.

BEAT.

RENEE O'CONNOR (CONT'D)

And that's why I know we are more than characters in a TV show. We are two women who represent hope to the millions of people who watch our show and love just like we do.

Our final battle isn't *against* warlords in Japan. Our final battle is *for love*.

(MORE)

RENEE O'CONNOR (CONT'D)  
*Love in this world and every world.*

You are my soulmate and sometimes I think a "soulmate" is simply someone who will help you be the best "you" that you can possibly be.

I love you. I'm in love with you.

And after all these years, every time I see you, I still stop breathing for a second.

I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Until we are very old - and very gray.

Xena...  
 (beat, then)  
 Will you marry me?

HOLD. HOLD. Claudia finally turns to KATHERINE. Asking

CLAUDIA BLACK  
 What do I say?

Katherine doesn't type - she just screams OUT:

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 (to Claudia)  
 YES! SAY YES!

CLAUDIA BLACK  
 (turns back to Renee)  
 YES!

KATHERINE FUGATE  
 And that ladies and gentleman, is my XENA FINALE!

Katherine bows. ALL ACTORS join on stage. FORM ONE LINE AND TAKE A CURTAIN CALL BOW together.

THEN I WILL INTRODUCE EACH ONE OF YOU SEPARATELY TO THE AUDIENCE.....

THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS. I - AND LOVE - AM IN YOUR DEBT.

**THE END**