

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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## Lara Croft returns

Angelina Jolie expects Tomb Raider II to top the original's success

By Marianne Hudson  
THE BATTALION

The sequels are better than the original, said Jonathan Miller of the "Tomb Raider" video game series. Miller, 23, from Houston, Texas, said he hopes the same will be true of the second Tomb Raider movie, which is due out in theaters July 2003.

"The original (Tomb Raider movie) could have been longer and [could have] provided more background to the characters," Miller said. "It was very close to the video games, but it didn't really have a story behind it."

Although "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider The Angel of Darkness" received many poor marks from critics, Angelina Jolie said she chose to do its sequel, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider II The Cradle of Life," because she wanted her character to become "darker, sexier and smarter."

"In the first ("Tomb Raider"), there were many unfinished things for me," she said. "I had a real difficulty with—and I used to laugh about—the flying monkeys. I really felt like it was bizarrely fantastic. In the second "Tomb Raider," (Lara) is more of a real person living in a real world."

As Lara's character develops in the sequel, so has Jolie's own life since the filming of "Tomb Raider I." In May 2002, Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton adopted their son Maddox from Cambodia. Although the couple split shortly afterward, Jolie said she tries to be involved in Maddox's life and has lunch with him every day. She said having a son has influenced her perspective on violence in movies and the roles she chooses.

"Since I am a parent, I take (violence in movies) very seriously," she said. "My main thing is that if (Lara) is going to kill somebody, it needs to be in self-defense. I do think there are just subtle things to be responsible

for where she is actually a good guy and her violence is to protect."

Despite her take on Lara's use of violence, Jolie said she hopes to someday make a movie in which she is the villain.

"Maybe this is me being very maternal, but I really want to play a bad person," she said. "Whether it be in sexuality or in the mind, I want to portray somebody from the darker, seedier side."

Joe Poduslo, a senior speech communications major, said he prefers Jolie when she plays evil characters.

"She always picks interesting roles," he said. "In 'Tomb Raider,' she played an Indiana-Jones-type role, but that was sort of a silly role. Her better characters are very dark and sexy—very mysterious on-screen and off-screen—so that attracts people to her."

In addition to affecting her acting desires, motherhood has also changed Jolie's workout regimen. For both Tomb Raider movies, Jolie performed many of her own stunts. She had a strict diet and a strenuous exercise schedule for "Tomb Raider I," but she said her physical preparation for "Tomb Raider II" was limited since she was raising a child.

"(For 'Tomb Raider II'), I woke up in the morning and had beans and eggs and bacon and worked out only when I did a lot of running," she said. "I think I was physically stronger in this one anyway. The most exhausting thing I did was push Maddox around when I jogged; that was harder than anything."

In "Tomb Raider II," Jolie's action stunts include trick horseback riding and rifle shooting, as well as some water action sequences.

"The Jet-skiing I hated initially," Jolie said. "I'm not comfortable with water sports, and it was the first thing we did. But, I was very happy to finally accomplish it."

Despite Jolie's numerous stunt sequences, Ryan Burton, a senior speech communications



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Angelina Jolie plays Lara Croft in the "Tomb Raider" sequel, "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider Cradle of Life"

major, said she does not "fit the part" of an action hero. Burton, who played the "Tomb Raider" video games throughout high school, said Jolie "does not do Lara Croft justice."

"I've heard about Angelina's real lifestyle, and I have a hard time thinking that a girl who wears a vile of blood around her neck could kick-ass against machines," he said. "There is no way a girl like her could do that. Ashley Judd, Cindy Garren, or Dr. Brown, my English professor, would have been better choices because they are a lot more authoritative than her."

Jolie said Lara Croft's role initially challenged

her, but public opinion polls gave her confidence.

"I read a poll that showed that people approved of me as Lara Croft," she said. "I was happy that people accepted me because I don't think I could have (played her part) otherwise. It took me a long time to be able to hold my head up and have fun with it because (Lara) is so confident, and I'm very casual."

Learning to play different characters is what has stretched her acting abilities, Jolie said. Depending on how well "Tomb Raider II" is received, Jolie said she would consider playing the part of Lara Croft in a "Tomb Raider III."

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