



## Tornados for TV

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**Finding a tornado** is like finding a needle in a haystack. There's 20,000 square miles of Tornado Alley, from Texas to North Dakota.

**It's a whole subculture** out in the Midwest. If you live in Oklahoma or Kansas or Nebraska, during the height of the tornado season hundreds of people are tracking storms.

**We follow these real people** who are out there. We embed a cameraperson for the entire 10 weeks. So they are living out there with them, waiting for storms to hit. It's a little like a docu-soap.

**I go out into the field**, get everyone up and running, then come back. I bounce from chasing storms in the Midwest to New York.

**We have an Imax filmmaker**, who drives around in a 16,000-pound tank. His goal is to get the shot of a lifetime—which is a tornado coming straight at him and impacting his car. Our meteorologist has a Doppler on wheels.

**It can go from incredibly boring**, driving around Midwest for 10 hours, to all of a sudden you'll find a storm and the tensions elevate.

**Last year I was hit** by two tornados myself. I saw my life flash before my eyes. I was with one of our daredevil teams in the follow-up vehicle. We saw the F1, F2 tornado coming. The wind was picking up, we were right in the path. We heard someone screaming, "Back up! Back up! Get out of the way!" We finally managed to back out before we were hit by the core of the tornado.

**I am what they call** in the business a Show Runner. A production company will sell an idea to one of the networks. Then they'll hire someone like me to execute the idea. I find the characters, come up with the show idea, the format, the look and style. I manage the whole crew of about 40 people.

**When I first saw** a five-minute tape pitching the idea for this show, right away I was like, "This is going to be a hit TV show." It was so action packed and crazy. But I had some misgiving about working on it cause I didn't know if I wanted to be the one out in the field chasing tornados.

**I had never spent so much time** in the middle of our country before. Last week I was out there for five weeks—big open skies, Zen meditative. Considering I live in NYC where you can't even see 30 feet in front of you, the wide open spaces are really nice.

**I love the action adventure** genre. I've been paid to travel all over the world for various different shows.

**When I was 28**, I produced a project for Nickelodeon. We traveled the world talking to kids about their hopes and dreams for the future. It was like the dream job.

**I did a show** about Timbuktu last year. I spent a month in Mali and Guinea in West Africa, and spent time with the Tuareg, the Blue Men of the Sahara. So that was amazing.

**What next?** Honestly, I think I have to start thinking about having a family. It's getting to be about that time. I think most of my classmates have done that already.