

# DREAM JOB: JOSH BERNSTEIN

By WENDY STRAKER March 6, 2006

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JOSH Bernstein is the CEO of Boulder Outdoor Survival School, the largest wilderness survival school in the world. Also the host of the History Channel's "Digging for the Truth," Bernstein knows no boundaries. Meet the man who rappels into volcanoes and hikes across glaciers to find out how he went from the busy streets of New York - to some of the most remote places on the planet.

## *When did you discover your love of archeology?*

It's more of a passion for adventure and exploration than for archeology. I've always been willing to go to extremes in uncomfortable places. If you watch home movies of me and my twin brother at 2 years old, I was always the one traveling to the end of the room, exploring all the nooks and crannies.

## *Who was your inspiration as a little kid?*

I'd have to say Clint Eastwood. The whole "do-it-yourself, man-of-action-not-words" thing was very appealing to me.

## *If your office had a theme, what would it be?*

I don't have an office. I never wanted to spend my life under fluorescent lights. Instead, my office is either the plane I'm traveling in or the production vehicle that's taking me to one of the sites. I always have my laptop and a stack of books with me so that I can research before each show.

## *What's your shooting schedule like?*

I travel nonstop from the beginning of May until the end of January. It's nine months of shooting, one month at a time, followed by a one week break. Usually I'll come back to New York during my week off unless I'm in a location where the jet lag would be totally ridiculous. If I'm doing one show in Israel and then the next one in Africa, then most likely I'll take that week off in London or somewhere else in Europe.

## *What has been your worst adventure experience so far?*

I was stung by 40 fire ants in Louisiana. I went into anaphylactic shock and had to be rushed to the emergency room and kept overnight for observation. It wasn't much fun.

***What do you miss most when you're traveling?***

Being able to unpack - I mean really unpack. Staying in one place for more than five days is a rare luxury these days.

***What does your calendar look like this month?***

I'm here in New York until April, which means my time is spent working on press for the show, recording voice-overs for upcoming episodes, visiting BOSS [Boulder Outdoor Survival School] and catching up with friends.

***What was your first full-time job?***

I was an apprentice at the Boulder Outdoor Survival School. I started off as student when I was 17. Then I became an apprentice, an instructor, a marketing director and in 1994, I became CEO.

***Are you still the CEO of BOSS?***

Yes, I am still the sole owner of the school, but my role has changed a bit given my travel schedule. Still, I make sure that I'm always accessible by phone or e-mail, and I try to visit the school at least three times each year. I'm very involved with everything from managing and staffing the employees to marketing the courses.

***Was it difficult to transition into TV without any experience?***

I'm very grateful to the History Channel for taking such a chance selecting me. Yes, it's was a pretty steep learning curve, but I learned on the job - and pretty quickly.

***After traveling, do you have trouble adjusting to N.Y.C.?***

I love New York. I grew up here. I don't think that you can take New York out of someone when they've grown up here.