



by Paul Dowling, *Executive Producer*

Hello! Thanks for visiting the Forensic Files® website.

Everyone who works on Forensic Files® is outstanding in their own way and today I want to tell you about one of our newest employees, **April Maddona**.

April had been one of the many interns who worked here for a semester before graduation. About a year after her internship, we had an opening for a “rough cut” editor. This position edits the first version of each episode – the “rough cut” - with the producers.

There were many candidates who applied for this position. Each applicant we interviewed also took an editing test. They were given the script for a Forensic Files recreation along with the raw footage and instructed to edit a 2-minute sequence in the style of our show.

None of the candidates know beforehand what the crime recreation will be. It might be a car crash, a bombing, a stalking case, a shooting or a fight. When we screened all the applicants, one edit test clearly stood out: April Maddona's, and she was offered the position.

After she settled into her new job, April's supervisor, Matt Hensel asked how she managed to do so well in the editing test, and she made a startling admission.

She told Matt she had borrowed the DVD's and watched every Forensic Files episode in anticipation of the interview! That was 360 episodes or 180 hours of television – the equivalent of watching 8 hours of Forensic Files episodes for 22 DAYS!

In addition, she told Matt, she had a plan. She didn't just watch the episodes. She grouped them into categories - shootings, car crashes, bombings, poisonings, fights, etc. - then analyzed what was stylistically different about the editing in each category. When the time came for her test, it didn't matter what she was asked to edit. She knew each category like the back of her hand, and was able to edit whatever scene she was given in the same style as past episodes.

Now that, Ladies and Gentlemen, is preparation.

At a time when many in my generation like to point out how “easy” young college graduates have it these days compared to the way things “used to be”, we come across a story like this.

Hard work and preparation always pay off.

Now here are two new episodes that premiere this month that April (among others) worked on!

Paul Dowling

Executive Producer