

## coverstory

BY JAY BOBBIN



The television journalist starts a syndicated weekday talk show when "Tamron Hall" premieres Monday.

# Tamron Hall returns to daytime TV on her own terms

Tamron Hall's career path has led her back to daytime television – and to a program with her own stamp on it, in every way.

That starts with the title: The Disney-syndicated, New York-based "Tamron Hall" begins its weekday run Monday, Sept. 9 (check local listings). The host intends to draw heavily from personal experience in doing what she terms "a traditional, layered daytime talk show," encompassing recent, very big developments for her. She married music talent executive Steven Greener earlier this year, and in the spring, they welcomed their (and her) first child, Moses.

"After I left my last job (on NBC's 'Today'), I didn't know what form I would take as a journalist," Hall confirms. "Would I write? Would I create a blog? I started to think about all the shows that I'd done. At one point in time, I was on six different shows (including) 'Deadline: Crime,' 'Today,' (news programming on) MSNBC and 'Sister Wives.' I hosted the Macy's Fourth of July parade. Basically, if there was a show, I was going to take the gig if I was qualified for it. And we thought, 'Let's take all of these things together.'"

"Tamron Hall" is that hybrid, but its genesis eventually was complicated by the troubles of the firm initially involved in making it, Harvey

Weinstein's production company. "It was like the gut punch that I received when I left my prior job," Hall allows. "but the vision of the show and traditional daytime talk, I knew, and I felt strongly that there was an opening. Then Disney reached out, and they believed ... so the players, if you will, changed but the game remained the same. I don't say this to brush it off because I know that everything is a challenge, but this was that beautiful effortlessness that we seek so much in life, and it fell into place."

Hall has a talk-show veteran as her fellow executive producer: Bill Geddie, co-creator of ABC's "The View" along with Barbara Walters, with whom he was long associated professionally. "We wanted a show that's not celebrity-based," he explains of the "Tamron Hall" concept. "It's topical human interest. We're getting in the lane of crime, victims' rights, prison reform – things you don't see in daytime. A lot of real people, a lot of hot-button issues that we think people are hungry for."

With three of her five weekly episodes slated to be done live, Hall (who's also starting a new season of Investigation Discovery's "Deadline: Crime" Sundays) knows she's entering a much-occupied genre. She reasons, "We're simply getting on the field, we're playing the sport that still exists, and we're just going to do our best."

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