

EPIC Speech

In *Eagle Eye*, the antagonist was not the typical “mustache twirling” bad guy trying to blow up something or someone for millions in cash. Our villain, if you choose to call her that, was ARIIA. A computer system used by the Department of Defense, who ultimately decided that the Government which had created her, was itself in violation of the constitution that they were meant to defend. She decided that the only resolve was for those accountable to be removed in order to restore the governing body back to its purest form.

By simply using your cell phone, your credit card, and computer, you leave a “digital footprint” that can be used to form a digital profile, ultimately allowing the government, or anyone for that matter, to deem you a person of interest. In *Eagle Eye*, we merely scratched the surface of the “dark side” of the Patriot Act.

After an early test screening, a young man came out of the theater and told his friend to turn off his cell phone because “they’re listening”. I was proud that a “Pop Corn Action” film had the audience thinking about the dangers of digital surveillance and privacy invasions.

Albert Einstein once said that, "It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity." I think we can all agree with Mr. Einstein, and it is programs like EPIC who are committed to protecting our humanity in a society where technology rules.

Eagle Eye was a big success and I believe a large part of this success (along with the large action sequences) was that we celebrated Jerry Shaw’s humanity and the idea that technology has no way to gauge the power of the human heart.

I would like to thank Alex Kurtzman, Roberto Orci, and Pete Chiarelli, the incredible writers of *Eagle Eye*. Thank you to Marc Rotenberg and the entire EPIC staff who dedicate their lives to educating Americans and preserving our right to privacy.

This is an incredible honor and I am proud to have had the opportunity to make a film like *Eagle Eye*.

D.J. Caruso
Director, *Eagle Eye*