

Biography for D. J. Caruso

Daniel John " D.J." Caruso is an American director and producer from Norwalk, Connecticut. Caruso has directed the films *Disturbia*, *Two for the Money*, *Taking Lives*, *The Salton Sea*, and *Eagle Eye*. He has also directed television episodes for shows such as *The Shield*, *Over There*, *Smallville*, *Dark Angel*, and *VR.5*. He directed his first music video in 2007 for the song "Don't Make Me Wait" by This World Fair. He was also a guest judge on the FOX reality show *On the Lot* for the episode of May 28/29.



Directing career

His first feature film as a director was *The Salton Sea* which starred Val Kilmer. It was released in 2002.

In 2004, Caruso directed *Taking Lives* with Angelina Jolie, Ethan Hawke and Kiefer Sutherland. The film was released in theaters on March 16, 2004 but didn't gross as much at box office as expected, only grossing \$65,470,529. The film was later released on DVD the same year and was number one on the charts for three straight weeks.

Two for the Money was Caruso's next film which was considered "a well done sport thriller, but with too many details." The film was released on October 7, 2005, and was not a box office success, only grossing \$30,526,509 worldwide with a modest budget of 18 million. It was later released in DVD in January 17, 2006.

In 2007, Caruso was asked by Steven Spielberg to direct *Disturbia*. The movie was Caruso's first big hit grossing over \$117 million, with only a \$20 million budget. It starred Shia LaBeouf, Sarah Roemer, David Morse, Aaron Yoo, and Carrie-Anne Moss. It was released April 13, 2007 in theaters and on DVD August 7.

Eagle Eye was Caruso's second collaboration with Shia LaBeouf. It also starred Michelle Monaghan, Billy Bob Thornton, Rosario Dawson and was released in theaters September 26, 2008. It was produced by Steven Spielberg. Though mostly panned by critics, on its opening weekend the movie grossed \$29.1 million dollars in 3,510 theaters in the United States and Canada. As of November 16, 2008, it has grossed \$169 million worldwide with a movie budget of \$80 million.

Caruso is currently working on a film adaptation for *Y: The Last Man*. It is rumored that it will be Caruso's third time working with LaBeouf. On July 24, 2009, it's also been announced that he will be working with Electronic Arts on a movie based on the hit game *Dead Space*.

Filmography

| Year | Title | Notes |
|------|---------------------------|---|
| 1996 | VR.5 | TV Series, unknown episodes |
| | High Incident | TV Series, unknown episodes |
| 1997 | Cyclops, Baby | Short Film |
| 1998 | Black Cat Run | Made-for-TV Movie |
| | Buddy Faro | TV Series, unknown episodes |
| 1999 | Martial Law | Tv Series, unknown episodes |
| | Mind Prey | Made-for-TV Movie |
| | The Strip | TV Series, unknown episodes |
| 2001 | Dark Angel (TV series) | TV Series, 1 Episode, Season 1: <i>Meow</i> |
| | Going to California | TV Series, unknown episodes |
| 2002 | Robbery Homicide Division | TV Series, 2 episodes |
| | The Salton Sea | Feature film debut |
| | Smallville | 1 episode, Season 2: <i>Shimmer</i> |

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| 2002-2006 | The Shield | TV series, 4 episodes |
| 2004 | Taking Lives | Film |
| 2005 | Two For The Money | Film |
| | Over There | TV Series, 1 episode |
| 2007 | Disturbia | Film |
| 2008 | Eagle Eye | Film |
| 2009 | Jack the Giant Killer | In production |

Personal life

Caruso graduated from Pepperdine University.

He married Holly Kuespert on July 6, 1991 and they have 5 children.