

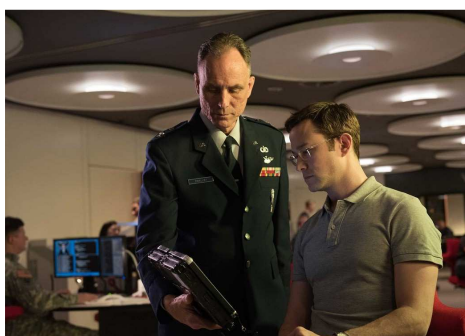
## Snowden – Review

**Disillusioned** with the **intelligence** community, top contractor Edward Snowden (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) leaves his job at the National Security Agency. He now knows that a virtual mountain of data is being assembled to **track** all forms of digital communication - not just from **foreign** governments and terrorist groups, but from ordinary Americans. When Snowden decides to leak this **classified** information, he becomes a **traitor** to some, a hero to others and a **fugitive** from the law.

The film begins with Snowden arranging a secret meeting in a Hong Kong hotel room with Citizenfour **filmmaker** Laura Poitras and **journalists** Glenn Greenwald and Ewan MacAskill. Thereafter, director Oliver Stone cuts



between the interview and the events leading up to it, including his **horrified** discovery of the **surveillance** technology employed by the National Security Agency and his relationship with long-suffering girlfriend Lindsay, played by Shailene Woodley.



Gordon-Levitt is one of the film's main **assets**. He delivers an understated and **eerily** note-perfect performance, **nailing** Snowden's distinctive voice in a way that almost backfires, because it's such a flat, uninteresting monotone.

The film is highly entertaining, with great performances by the whole **cast**. Snowden makes you understand why he felt that there was no choice but to risk everything and let the world know the **truth**.

Stone's primary achievement is to generate significant tension, despite the fact that the audience already knows the **outcome** of the story. It's well-constructed and does not require any cinematic **flamboyance** to make its point. Compelling and relevant that will have you nervously sticking tape over your laptop **webcam**. Snowden is a politically-charged, pulse-pounding **thriller**. Watch it - after all, they're watching you!