

## **BACKSPOT INFO TO SUBMIT:**

### **Logline:**

Riley, a mid-level cheerleader, is given an opportunity to cheer with the All-Star team Thunderhawks. With a competition looming, Riley must navigate her crippling anxiety, her relationship with her girlfriend, and her desperate need for approval from her new coach.

### **Synopsis:**

Riley (Devery Jacobs) is the formidable backspot on her mid-level cheerleading squad until professional coach Eileen McNamara (Evan Rachel Wood) gives her an opportunity to join the Thunderhawks, a high performance All Star team. Young, ambitious and fiercely in love with her girlfriend Amanda (Kudakwashe Rutendo), Riley would be on top of the world if only she could get her crippling anxiety under control. Desperate to be heard and appreciated, two qualities her home life severely lacks, Riley will do anything to ingratiate herself to her new coach. Overwhelmed, obsessive and with a competition looming, this young, queer athlete must decipher her own voice from the women around her, and form a healthier relationship to the sport that she loves.

### **Director's bio:**

D.W. Waterson (*they/them*) is a Toronto-based, award-winning, non-binary/queer filmmaker and world-touring electronic music artist. D.W. is the creative force behind the 6 million-viewed, 40+ time award-winning digital series *THAT'S MY DJ* (Seasons 1-3). They have been DJing and throwing parties in the Toronto underground for ten years, and have opened for artists such as Peaches and Idris Elba.

Waterson's work has garnered a Canadian Screen Award Nomination, 5 Best Director awards as well as Noteable's 2017 Director of the Year award. Named a Resident at the 2022 TIFF Filmmaker Lab, D.W. has completed their debut feature film *BACKSPOT*. Alongside directing and producing, D.W. also created original electronic tracks to accompany the film.

Credit:

# BACKSPOT

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D.W. Waterson

CANADA 2023

English

WORLD PREMIERE

92 minutes | Colour/DCP

Production Company: **Page Boy Productions, Prospero Pictures, Night is Y**  
Executive Producer: **Elliot Page, Matt Jordan Smith, J.C. Davidson, Katisha Shaw**

Producer: **Alona Metzger, D.W. Waterson, Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs, Martin Katz**

Screenplay: **Joanne Sarazen**

Story by: **D.W. Waterson**

Cinematographer: **James Poremba**

Production Designer: **Avalon McLean-Smiths**

Sound: **Bret Killoran, Chris Russell**

Original Score: **Casey MQ**

Principal Cast: **Devery Jacobs, Evan Rachel Wood, Shannyn Sossamon, Kudakwashe Rutendo, Thomas Antony Olajide, Wendy Crewson**

Canadian Distributor: **levelFILM**

International Sales Agent : **UTA**