

Backspot is a 2023 drama film directed by D. W. Waterson in their feature-length directorial debut and stars Devery Jacobs, Kudakwashe Rutendo, and Evan Rachel Wood. Jacobs also serves as producer, along with Waterson, through their Night is Y production company.^[1]

The film premiered in the Discovery program at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival.^[2]

Synopsis

The plot follows two cheerleaders named Riley (Jacobs) and Amanda (Rutendo) as they navigate the world of competitive cheerleading.^[3]

Cast

- Devery Jacobs as Riley
- Evan Rachel Wood as Eileen McNamara
- Noa DiBerto as Rachel
- Kudakwashe Rutendo as Amanda
- Thomas Antony Olajide
- Oluniké Adeliyi
- Wendy Crewson
- Shannyn Sossamon
- Adrianna Di Liello as Banigan
- Marlee Sansom as Laila

Production

The project is produced by Page Boy Productions, Night is Y, and Prospero Pictures. It was written by Joanne Sarazen, based on a story by D. W. Waterson. Elliot Page, Matthew Jordan Smith, John Davidson, and Katisha Shaw executive produce, with Alona Metzer, Waterson, Jacobs, and Martin Katz as producers.^[4] In December 2023, XYZ Films had acquired the U.S., Australia and New Zealand distribution rights to the film.^[5]

Backspot	
Directed by	D. W. Waterson
Screenplay by	Joanne Sarazen
Produced by	<div>Martin Katz<div><div></div>Devery Jacobs</div>D. W. WatersonAlona Metzer</div>
Starring	<div>Devery JacobsEvan Rachel WoodKudakwashe RutendoThomas Antony OlajideOluniké AdeliyiWendy CrewsonShannyn Sossamon</div>
Edited by	<div>Rémy HuberdeauD. W. Waterson</div>
Production companies	<div>Page Boy ProductionsNight is YProspero Pictures</div>
Distributed by	XYZ Films
Release dates	<div>September 8, 2023 (TIFF)May 31, 2024 (United States)</div>
Countries	<div>CanadaUnited States</div>
Language	English

In cheerleading, a backspotter acts as a support to the flyer during cheerleading stunts, which is referenced in the title of the project.^[6]

Casting

As well as producing the movie, Jacobs was announced as one of the leads of the film in October 2022.^[7] Newcomer Kudakwashe Rutendo was announced as the other lead in February 2023.^[8] Evan Rachel Wood was revealed to have joined the production in March 2023.^[9]

Filming

Principal photography began in Toronto in February 2023.^[10] It was reported by Collider that filming had wrapped in March 2023.^[11]

Release

Backspot is scheduled to be released in the Canada and the United States on May 31, 2024.^[12]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 80% of 10 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6/10.^[13]

References

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7. "Devery Jacobs to Star in Queer Cheerleading Drama Produced by Elliot Page" (<https://movies.mxdwn.com/news/devery-jacobs-to-star-in-queer-cheerleading-drama-produced-by-elliott-page>). *mxdwn.com*. October 14, 2022. Retrieved March 10, 2023.
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External links

- *Backspot* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt26739710/>) at *IMDb*
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