

Afterglow

Logline:

In a future with flying cars, miracle cures, and marvelous future technology, one woman is trying to keep her bills paid and her radical past under wraps.

Introduction:

Hello my name is Evelyn Ryan and I am introducing Afterglow, a cyberpunk radio drama that tells the story of Nova. Nova is a young trans woman starting a new job at a small bar called Afterglow.

My personal passions include writing drama, exploring queerness, talking about food, and bringing together stories. Afterglow came from my passion for drama and queer issues as well as my intense love for cyberpunk properties like Blade Runner or VA-11 HA11-A. In mainstream cyber punk there is often a metaphor for an “other” that is oppressed for some reason, take for instance the Replicants in Blade Runner. I would claim that these “others” are heavily queer-coded. They become an easily digestible metaphor for cisgender and heterosexual people. I want to throw that metaphor out the window. If cyberpunk stores are about queerness, they should be explicitly queer, made for the enjoyment of queer people.

Summary:

Afterglow is a local queer bar, one of the last in Vancouver after Brewster Subsidiaries acquire a near monopoly on bars in the province of BC. The joint is run by Avery: a scarred and muscular woman who would do anything for her workers. Nova works alongside Christoph: an ex-cargo orbiter and Ryna: a lifelong barkeep.

Between serving her eccentric customers their eccentric drinks and befriending her coworkers, Nova has to keep her past secret at all times. After all, if Vancouver's private security force Guardian learns who Nova really is, she'll never get another chance to make a life for herself.

Nova once fought against corporate powers as a part of the Anarchist Western Front: freedom fighters or terrorist organization depending on who you ask. After the execution of their Leader three years ago, members of the AWF have been persecuted relentlessly by the government and private security forces.

Nova keeps her head down and works so she can afford to put food on the table and keep a roof over her head but the closer she gets with her coworkers, the more she realizes they may have secrets just as compromising as her own.

Will Nova find another family she can trust or will the violence from her past finally catch up to her? As the elements from her past become bound to her present, Nova will have to decide what her future will become. Does she keep her head down and keep working or does she have a bigger part to play in this world?

I am primarily a writer and director. I am experienced with audio engineering and I have some know-how when it comes to design. What I would primarily need help with is acting, marketing, and sound design (sound effects and soundtrack).

Market:

The intended audience of this podcast is nerdy LGTQ+ adults who want to listen to something with high production values and an emotionally satisfying story. This story is meant to appeal to LGBTQ+ fans of the Wachowski movies, Mass Effect, The Adventure Zone, or VA-11 HA11-A. Afterglow is meant to be true Cyberpunk with both futuristic sci-fi elements and a story grounded on a punk main character who has relatable and high stakes and an evergreen story.

Important Elements:

The tone will be dramatic with actors voicing the characters and high quality sound effects and music as well as actors for each character. Due to the high production values, the podcast would have a monthly release schedule. The story would have a similar structure to The Adventure Zone: Amnesty where each episode forwards a continuous story. The story would be segmented into multiple arcs with each arc having its own story that builds into the wider story.

The first arc would be about Nova starting her new job, her everyday struggle with work and her lonely homelife. The arc would develop as her relationships with her coworkers begin to grow stronger. The arc would end with a dangerous element from Nova's past reentering her life and threatening her new safety.

Afterglow aims to break into the "fandom" ecosystem. Fandoms have shown to form around podcasts in the past. Think The Magnus Archives. Just searching the name on google gives countless examples of the fanarts and social media buzz about the series. This in effect acts as marketing for the series.

The podcast would feature an ad break halfway through the show where the producer would advertise various sponsors. There would also be a separate webpage that would include merchandise and additional ways to engage with the world of Afterglow. This would include a *Codex* page where fans could read about various aspects of the background lore.

Team Roles:

1. Producer
2. Audio Engineer
3. Design
4. Marketing

Additional Questions:

- I have taken Writ 320 so I do have some experience audio engineering using audacity
- I am experienced borrowing from the Fine Arts equipment cage and the library loan desk. I do not have any hardware of my own. I use Audacity for recording and editing on my laptop.
- I have a laptop with Windows 10 running on it.
- My phone can usually run most recording and audio apps. I do have an Iphone 6s so it is a slightly older model.