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# 'Heated Rivalry': First Look At Crave's Steamy Canadian Ice Hockey Drama; Launch Date Set



By Jesse Whittock

International TV Co-Editor

@WhittockTweets

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'Heated Rivalry'  
Sabrina Lantieri/Crave

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**EXCLUSIVE:** Here's your first look at *Heated Rivalry*, Crave's steamy TV drama series. We can also reveal the series will launch in Canada in November.

*Heated Rivalry* follows a pair of leading Major League Hockey players who harbor a secret: Away from their rivalry on the ice, they are secretly lovers who initially hide their confusing and complicated relationship from the world.

Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie star as the serious-minded Canadian captain of the Montreal Meteors, and Russian star and playboy Ilya Rozanov of the Boston Raiders, respectively. In the image above, we see them catching a secret moment together. Below, it's them with their sporting hats on, fending questions at a press conference.

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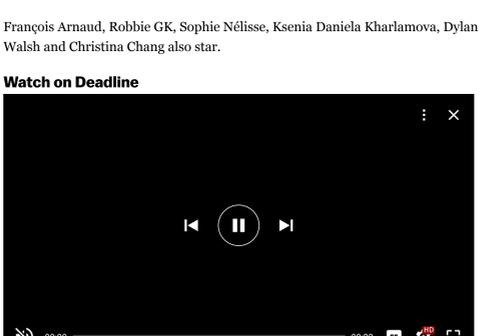
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Impression Entertainment Signs 'Heated Rivalry's François Arnaud

François Arnaud, Robbie GK, Sophie Nélisse, Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova, Dylan Walsh and Christina Chang also star.

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HBO MAX/CRAVE

The show comes from Jacob Tierney and Brendan Brady from Accent Aigu Entertainment, who have adapted author Rachel Reid's novels charting the love affair. "Their connection feels so real, as Rachel allowed for this complicated dynamic that grows over seven years," Tierney told Deadline in an exclusive interview.



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Tierney and Brady are among the hottest producers in Canadian TV right now, coming off *Letterkenny* and *Shores*. They optioned the book before writing a pilot on spec and selling the idea to Crave.

Bell Media streamer commissioned the series earlier this year, with Bell's General Manager of Original Programming Carlyn Klebuc saying it was "going to be buzzy," and the Canadian giant's VP of Content Development & Programming, Justin Stockman, adding it was "a very big swing." Sphere Abacus, the Bell-owned sales house, is shopping the series at MIPCOM Cannes next month.

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**Anonymous** on September 26, 2025 10:24 am

Was about to cancel my Crave subscription, but now I am keeping it! Can't wait for this show.

**Anonymous** on September 24, 2025 4:38 pm

I need it now!!!

**Lizzie** on September 24, 2025 8:15 am

But will Ilya still have a big, ugly bear tattoo? lol

**Anonymous** on September 24, 2025 8:39 am

Unfortunately no 🐻

**Anonymous** on September 24, 2025 8:07 am

SO EXCITED!!! Can't wait to hear when it'll be released internationally and via which platform

**Anonymous** on September 24, 2025 12:04 pm

Can't wait to stream this great story in the US!

**Anonymous** on September 24, 2025 8:02 am

It's coming out in November. I have to live through October.

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