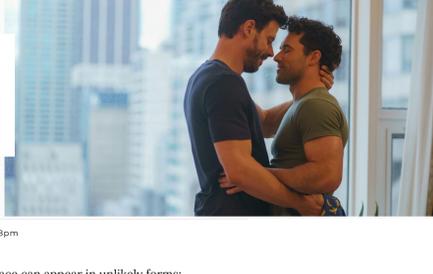


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# Heated Rivalry Is The TV Show We Need Right Now



By **Joe Stone** | Published on 15th January 2026 at 5:58pm

In the most miserable month of the year, solace can appear in unlikely forms: rediscovering a crumpled £10 note in the pocket of a rarely worn coat, sharing a kind word with a stranger, marvelling at the majesty of Connor Storrie's bare bum - an architectural wonder so awe-inspiring that it makes the pyramids and Parthenon look like unloved Barratt Homes in a suburban cul-de-sac.

If you aren't yet familiar with *Heated Rivalry*, allow me to change your life. The hottest TV show of the moment has just arrived in the UK (on NOW and Sky Atlantic), igniting an unprecedented national obsession with ice hockey - or, at least, the erotic potential of the shower rooms. The story revolves around a simmering situationship between Shane Hollander (Hudson Williams), the shy captain of Canada's Montreal Metros, and his arrogant Russian rival, Ilya Romanov (Storrie) of the Boston Raiders. Over eight years, the pair do battle on the ice before engaging in a more illicit form of athleticism in a succession of hotel rooms.

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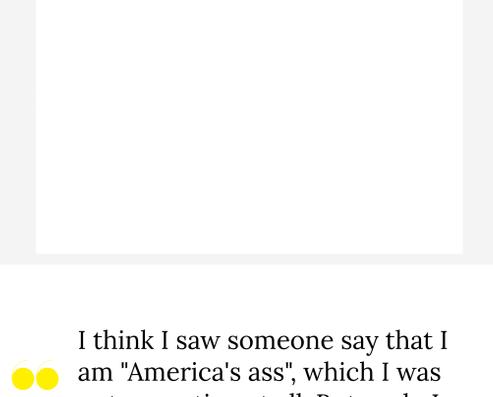
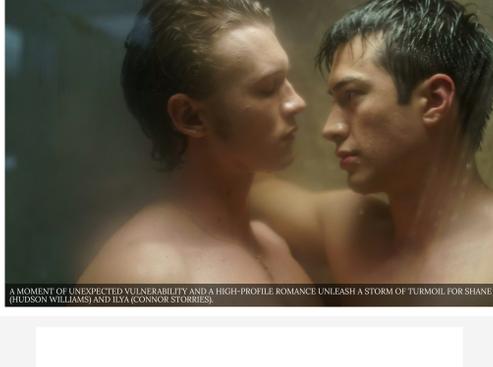
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It's distinctly NSFW; while it took three seasons for *Heartstopper's* Kit Connor and Joe Locke to consummate their puppy love, we're less than 15 minutes into the first episode of *Heated Rivalry* before Ilya is pleasuring himself for Shane in their locker room. The season averages three sex scenes per episode, making *Challengers'* much-discussed kiss between Josh O'Connor and Mike Faist seem like *Peppa Pig* by comparison.

The Canadian show, which began airing in the US in November, has made overnight stars of its co-leads - as well as bestowing legendary status on their unimpeachable peaches. Discussing their meteoric rise during an appearance at *Hi Tops* (a gay sports bar in West Hollywood), Storrie thanked the assembled crowd for 'tweeting about our butts'. He later told *Entertainment Weekly*, 'My butt has been a big topic of conversation. I think I saw someone say that I am 'America's ass', which I was not expecting at all. But yeah, I love it. I'll take it. Feels good.' In a move likely to stir fans of the show, Williams concurred that 'it's a great butt'.



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With a US audience that's two-thirds women, the show represents the mainstreaming of 'fujoshis', a Japanese term to describe female fans of gay romances. *Heated Rivalry* is based on *Game Changers* by Rachel Reid, a series of men loving men (MLM) romance novels - a genre which is booming on BookTok and beyond. Meanwhile, 2025 research by Pornhub revealed that 47% of people watching gay male porn were women. According to sex therapist Roya Rahmzadeh, 'Much mainstream erotic imagery is shaped by the male gaze, where women's bodies are positioned to be evaluated and desired. A gay love story between men shifts that structure. The story becomes something to experience rather than something to measure yourself against.'

If thirsting over Connor Storrie's perfect backside means overthrowing the patriarchy, consider us revolutionaries.

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