

The U.S. and Israel have attacked Iran. Read our coverage here.

CULTURE

The SNL Host That Knew Exactly What Viewers Wanted to See

An actor known for baring it all onscreen transformed his body into a prop.

By Paula Mejía



Will Heath / NBC

MARCH 1, 2026, 2:49 PM ET

SHARE SAVE

Connor Storrie is well aware that his fans lust for him. *The Heated Rivalry* actor and first-time *Saturday Night Live* host—who only recently catapulted to fame, after the steamy hockey-centric gay romance he stars in became a surprise TV hit—opened his monologue by acknowledging as much. “It’s a show that’s taught a lot of people about hockey, and it’s taught a lot of straight women that their sexuality is ‘gay guy,’” he said of the HBO series. The studio audience, seemingly stuffed with *Heated Rivalry* viewers, chortled back in approval. From the jump, Storrie knowingly winked at those who had likely tuned in because of his role on the show: as an athlete with a rippling physique, who often appears naked on-screen. That self-awareness gave way to the episode’s best sketch, which saw Storrie harnessing the viewers’ bawdy gazes to fuel a bit of subversive slapstick.

The joke was predicated on Storrie, a gifted physical comedian, transforming his own body into the gag. It opened with a group of friends celebrating at a bachelorette party in Las Vegas. They received a knock on their hotel-room door, expecting to find the male exotic dancer they’d hired for the evening. But the stripper (played by Storrie) was not all there: He squirmed across the floor in pain, his body beat and his face bloody; he had been hit by a car en route to the fete, he told them. The laughs came from how committed the mangled stripper, embodying a sexy-plumber fantasy, was to the gig. “Did somebody call a plumber?” he gasped, laboriously hoisting himself from the ground and attempting to dance on what appeared to be fractured legs, wobbly balancing himself on a plunger.



On its surface, the entire bit could be read as fan service for those hungry to see the *Heated Rivalry* star in a state of undress. But Storrie’s character both leaned into and toyed with viewers’ thirstiness. In the sketch, the horrified group of friends watched uncomfortably as the stripper refused to acknowledge his battered state, instead keeping the raunchy charade going. The more he shed the plumber getup, the worse his pain seemed to get: At one point he shakily used the plunger to help him crawl toward the women in a come-hither routine, huffing as the ladies, nervous smiles frozen on their faces, politely looked on. Finally, he inched toward one of them, inviting her to take his pants off. As she hesitantly jerked the pants off his body, the stripper shrieked and fell to the ground in misery. Yet for as uncomfortable as both he and the bachelorettes in the sketch were, the crowd continued hooting and hollering each time Storrie ripped off an item of clothing. It made for an effective meta-commentary about how viewers engage with a person known for taking his clothes off: Storrie’s character’s obvious agony had no effect on their desire to see him pantsless.

Perhaps why Storrie understood this character so well was because he developed it himself. Before his acting career took off, he studied the art of clowning. That comedic form relies upon a performer’s willingness to be physically vulnerable; it draws solely on the imagination, with a clown’s body being his primary prop. Storrie combined these instincts with his own public image, making a meal out of the outsize attention that is now placed on his appearance; even when he asked a bachelorette to tie his toolbelt around his thigh like a tourniquet, his efforts to look sexy continued apace. Ultimately, the comedy acted as cheeky commentary on the at-times twisted nature of objectification: As one of the women put it, “I’m worried about him, but I definitely don’t want him to stop.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paula Mejía

Paula Mejía is a writer and editor based in Los Angeles.

Explore More Topics

Television, HBO, Saturday Night Live

MORE FROM PAULA MEJÍA

See All

Sony Pictures Classics / Everett Collection

The Queen of Mockumentaries

Catherine O’Hara brought humanity to over-the-top characters—and managed to wink at the audience in the process.

Will Heath / NBC

A Surprisingly Humane SNL Sketch About Changing Your Mind

The standout performance last night was about a mom reconsidering her political views.

The SNL Sketch That Captures the Absurdity of Life-Maxxing

The show mocked prettily packaged year-end features, such as Spotify “Wrapped,” that spit data collected about consumers back at them.

Nora Rockwell / NBC

MORE FROM CULTURE

See All

Evelyn Freja / Connected Archives

French 75

A poem

KORTNEY MORROW

Illustration by The Atlantic

What \$1 Million of Anti-Racist Leadership Training Buys You

The president of Wesleyan University objected to a recent *Atlantic* article—but didn’t criticize it on the merits.

TYLER AUSTIN HARPER

Patrick T. Fallon / AFP / Getty

Netflix Just Avoided a Huge Headache

The streamer saved more than money by giving up on Warner Bros. Discovery.

DAVID SIMS

Illustration by The Atlantic. Source: Netflix.

Love Is Blind, as Long as Love Does Pilates

On Netflix’s hit dating show, stealth misogyny gets its big reveal.

MEGAN GARDER

Illustration by Erik Carter

Enough With the Bros

For a decade, the trope has been a reliable—and lazy—way to elevate pet peeves into trends.

DAN BROOKS

Illustration by Alisha Gao / The Atlantic

When Did Literature Get Less Dirty?

A puritan strain is manifesting in realist novels as a marked absence of straight sex.

LILLY NEYER

The Atlantic Daily

Get our guide to the day’s biggest news and ideas, delivered to your inbox every weekday and Sunday mornings. [See more newsletters](#)

Enter your email

Your newsletter subscriptions are subject to [The Atlantic’s Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#).

Ideas That Matter

Subscribe and support more than 160 years of independent journalism.