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Langara film art students read script and prepare for film shoot at Langara College. Photo by Ehxea Antoine

### The Hudson Effect: Heated enrolment for Langara's film arts program

Hudson Williams' influence goes beyond book clubs and binge watches and is lifting enrolment at his alma mater's film program

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By EHXEA ANTOINE

While enrolment declines across Langara, the film arts production program is experiencing a surge in applications, according to the department head.

Program coordinator Jonas Quastel attributes the sharp increase to alumni Hudson Williams' meteoric rise to stardom after he co-starred in the Crave series Heated Rivalry. The show is about two hockey players who fall in love with each other and is adapted from the Rachel Reid 2019 novel of the same name.

#### Ascending acting applications

Quastel said the rise in applications started in February when Williams "blew up." He expects the number of applications to double by the next application deadline in August.

The eight-month film arts program is split into three streams; writing, directing and acting and Quastel said the acting stream is triple the number of the others.

"We should have some really great actors next year," he said.

Quastel, who taught Hudson in the film arts program before he graduated in 2020, said he always expected him to succeed but was surprised at the extent of his fame.

"This just doesn't happen," Quastel said.

#### All eyes on the program

With the rise in popularity of the program, students are excited at the talent it might attract.

Jordan Nelson, a film student in the acting stream, said students want to ensure they are producing the highest-quality work with more attention on the program.

"I have a feeling that we are going to have more eyes than we've ever had before," Nelson said.

But Christian Askimakos, who is in the acting program, said he hopes students are applying for the right reasons.

"I hope they are applying because they actually want to," he said. "Not just because this guy got successful."



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#### ABOUT US

The Voice newspaper and its digital edition, The Voice Online, are produced by Langara College journalism students as part of their multimedia production courses.

The Voice covers Langara College campus news and South Vancouver community news from Musqueam territory to Boundary Road, 41st Avenue to the Fraser River.

Editorial opinions are those of the staff and are independent of views of the student government and administration.

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