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Heated Rivalry wins Peabody Award for inspiring gay athletes and showing value of diverse stories

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'Heated Rivalry' leads Connor Storrie, left, and Hudson Williams arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Los Angeles on March 15. The series debuted on Crave and HBO Max in November and quickly gained a fan base.

EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian hockey romance *Heated Rivalry* has won a Peabody Award.

The American awards honour excellence in storytelling that reflects social issues.

Jurors say the show “inspired gay athletes to come out, boosted hockey sales and dispelled Hollywood’s limiting beliefs about the value of diverse stories.”

The series, which was created by Jacob Tierney, debuted on Crave and HBO Max in November and quickly gained a fan base.

CBC’s North of North in heated rivalry with Crave hit at 2026 Canadian Screen Awards

The show tells the love story of rival hockey stars Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov, and it’s based on a series of romance novels by Nova Scotia’s Rachel Reid.

Canadian comedian Nathan Fielder’s HBO show *The Rehearsal* also nabbed a Peabody for its second season, which explored aviation disasters and conceived of ways to help pilots and co-pilots speak more openly.

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