

# Heated Rivalry Review

by Hannah Bearne (Voice Community)

In sport, rivalry is everything. But in Heated Rivalry, passion for the game soon becomes passion for the player. The series, adapted from a novel, has stolen the hearts of fanfic readers all over the world.



The Canadian romance series tells the story of professional hockey players Shane (Hudson Williams) and Ilya (Connor Storrie), following their nine-year slow burn relationship – a classic enemies to lovers journey. The two elite sportsmen – who compete in fictional rival hockey teams – meet on the ice back in 2008, where they are met by a flood of media coverage delving into their private, romantic, and family lives. Throughout the six-episode series, we are guided through an emotional rollercoaster of desire, turmoil, and friendship – you can guarantee a packet of tissues will be in order.

One of the show's strengths lies in its in-depth character development, with themes of identity and self-discovery playing an integral part in the plot. Firstly, while found in similar walks of life, the two leads show us vastly different experiences of personal identity battles. Shane, who is a wealthy, confused young sportsman from a loving and tight-knit family, demonstrates to the viewer a relatable and identifiable on-screen connection. Ilya, while still equally lovable, demonstrates the alternative pressures of homosexuality attached to his Russian nationality – and the tough exterior which comes along with his knowledge of this.

It's no secret that homosexuality as an elite sportsman can be an impossible situation to navigate, which creator Jacob Tierney depicts all too well. From sneaking around hotel rooms to visiting 'The Cottage', we are shown the true efforts these young men are forced to go to in order to ensure their privacy.

Overall, *Heated Rivalry* emerges as a lesson in acting and directing. Like many others, I laughed, cried, and prayed for these characters as every twist and turn of their story played out. From its steamy romance to deep character analysis, the viewer is truly taken on a journey in *Heated Rivalry* – a tricky feat to achieve.

All episodes of *Heated Rivalry* are available to stream on Sky and Now TV.



This is a user generated post from our wider Voice community and was not edited by the Voice team. We would love to hear your views too! [Sign up for an account](#) and make your Voice heard!

POSTED: 7 APRIL 2026

INTERESTS: FILM & MEDIA

SHARE



POST A COMMENT



## AUTHOR



Hannah Bearne CONTRIBUTOR

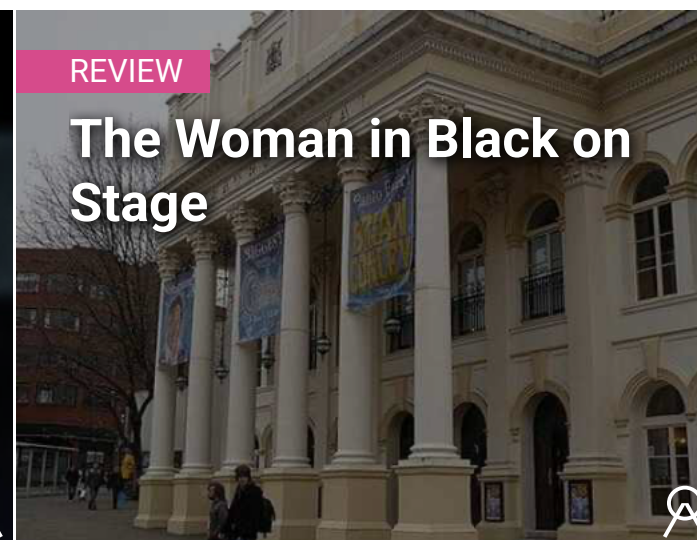
I'm Hannah, a Sociology graduate from Leeds University where I wrote articles for The Gryphon newspaper. I love Film, TV and theatre and look forward to writing lots of reviews!

We need your help supporting young creatives

DONATE NOW

Other ways you can help →

## RECENT POSTS BY THIS AUTHOR



VIEW MORE POSTS BY HANNAH BEARNE >

## 0 COMMENTS

## POST A COMMENT

You must be signed in to post a comment. [CLICK HERE TO SIGN IN NOW](#)



## RELATED POSTS

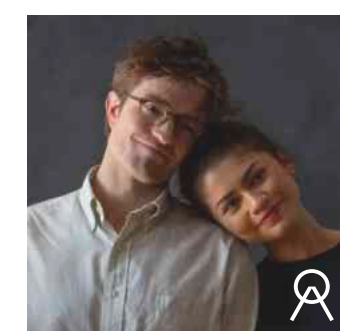


REVIEW

"Romeo + Juliet" 1996 Film Review

by Victoria Vireikyte

Posted on 4 April 2026

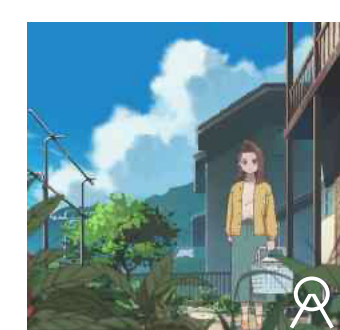


REVIEW

Film Review: The Drama

by Kieran Battams

Posted on 3 April 2026



REVIEW

Film Review: The Last Blossom (2025)

by Xena Frailing

Posted on 2 April 2026

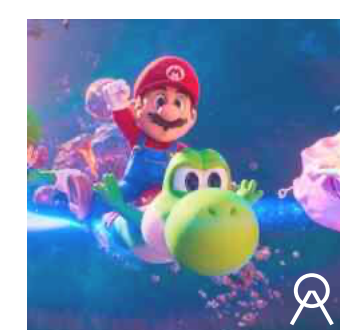


BLOG

SNL UK has found extreme weirdness, and it works

by Tom Beasley

Posted on 2 April 2026

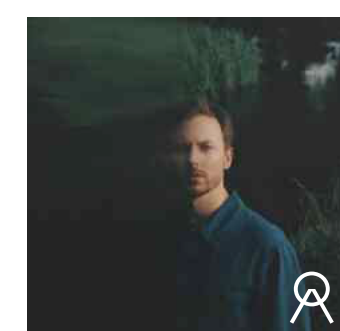


REVIEW

Film Review: The Super Mario Galaxy Movie

by Kieran Battams

Posted on 1 April 2026



BLOG

Interview: Joe Hicks, Musician

by Naomi Johnson

Posted on 1 April 2026

## EDITOR'S PICKS



INTERVIEW

IWD 23: Interview with Elizabeth Furth, Head Roaster at Chimney Fire Coffee

by Saskia Calliste

Posted on 14 March 2023



FEATURE

Embracing equity this International Women's Day

by Saskia Calliste

Posted on 8 March 2023

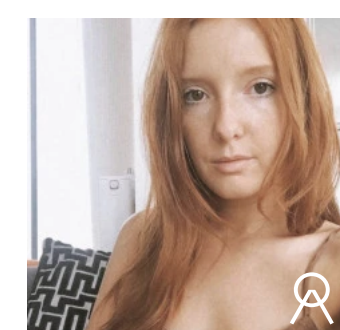


BLOG

Embracing the power of femininity

by Mystaya Brémaud

Posted on 8 March 2023

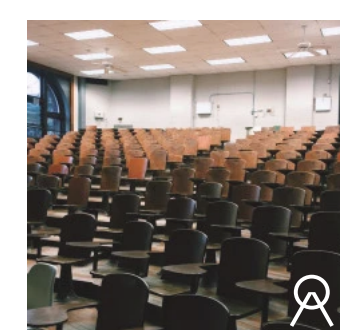


BLOG

Activist Patsy Stevenson talks violence against women and the importance of equity

by Ayah Khan

Posted on 8 March 2023



BLOG

A conversation on embracing equity with women in academia

by Nelle Osei

Posted on 8 March 2023



FEATURE

Virginia Woolf would embrace equity feminism

by Kashmini Shah

Posted on 8 March 2023



Support our work >

Become a Friend >

### VOICE

About

Contact & Complaints

Privacy

Terms & Conditions

### MAGAZINE

House rules

Read the magazine

Post to Voice

Advertise

### SOCIALISE

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

YouTube

TikTok



Voice is run by the charity Upstart Projects – Registered charity #1157864

