



Today Is A Great Day For Heated Rivalry Fans



By [Shealyn Scott](#) — Jun 11, 2026, 11:45 AM EDT

Connor Storrie's career took off with *Heated Rivalry*, but the talented actor is back on fans' screens long before season 2 will drop. The queer sports romance based on Rachel Reid's bestselling book series was a breakout sensation, unexpectedly cementing its spot as one of the best shows of 2025 mere weeks before the year ended. The wonderful work of creator Jacob Tierney helped jump-start the Canadian drama's success, but it was the blazing chemistry between Storrie's Ilya Rozanov and Hudson Williams' Shane Hollander that made it a must-watch, veritably viral series.

For months, *Heated Rivalry* dominated online spaced as the show's fandom steadily grew, cultivating countless fans eager to see season 2. While the upcoming *Heated Rivalry* script book is meant to tide viewers over until the drama's return, rising



stealing role in a major network procedural. Thankfully, Connor Storrie's stint in ***Criminal Minds*** has only just begun, meaning Heated Rivalry fans have even more content to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Connor Storrie Steals The Show In Criminal Minds Season 19, Episode 4

Criminal Minds Marks One Of Storrie's First Post-Breakout Roles



Thus far, ***Criminal Minds* season 19** has had some of the best episodes of the crime drama's modern era, but "The Witching Hour" introduced an instantly captivating side character: Storrie's Lance Kingston. After notorious serial killer Elias Voit (Zach



fan mail to his prison cell. The BAU hit the ground running to prevent a copycat killer, leading them on a wild goose chase to Lance, a narcissistic stalker whose ex-girlfriend was used to bait the FBI.

Soon after, the BAU realize Lance isn't the wannabe murderer they are looking for, but they ruthlessly interrogate and intimidate the suspect nonetheless before setting him loose. As Voit deducts, however, the real fan never planned on the FBI falling for his trap. Rather, Lance was always meant to be a Trojan horse for the true unsub to learn the BAU's playbook, as *Criminal Minds* season 19, episode 4 confirms with a haunting shot of Lance's unconscious body being dropped into a car trunk.

Criminal Minds: Evolution Season 19 Trailer

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Nevertheless, the cliffhanger already has partial resolution. *Criminal Minds* has confirmed Lance's story is far from over, as the character is slated to appear in three of the season's remaining six episodes. The news is unsurprising, as Connor Storrie's infallible performance had most viewers immediately invested in a fundamentally unlikable character. Furthermore, Storrie was able to hold his own against series



From here, Lance's off-putting but generally harmless demeanor will likely spiral under the control of Voit's fan, possibly turning the young man into a killer of his own. Whether Lance proves to be a terrifying new-age unsub or a human shield for the season's actual villain, Storrie has already demonstrated tremendous skill and given a thoroughly compelling performance. Yet, Storrie's acting in *Criminal Minds* is worlds away from *Heated Rivalry*— which is, truthfully, the wisest choice the budding star could make.

Why Criminal Minds Season 19 Is The Perfect Project For Connor Storrie

Lance Kingston Expertly Shows Off The Actor's Impressive Range

Image via Paramount Press Express



Being in a smash-hit series like *Heated Rivalry* is a fast-track to overnight stardom, but playing a role like Ilya Rozanov is a double-edged sword. Connor Storrie's impeccable Russian accent and startling emotional depth is half the reason *Heated Rivalry* garnered such unanticipated global acclaim, but that also meant millions of viewers began to view Storrie and Rozanov as synonymous.

Having one iconic character under your belt is a form of success in its own right, but Connor Storrie has far too much talent to be boxed in or have his career peak prematurely. Since the sports romance series' debut season finished airing, Storrie has made a concerted effort to demonstrate his range, notably by hosting an episode of *Saturday Night Live* and helping create some of the season's most memorable skits. Thankfully, *Criminal Minds* is a wildly effective way to show an actor's "dark" side, as Lance Kingston has already begun to do for Connor Storrie.

Note

Connor Storrie was initially meant to appear in one episode of *Criminal Minds* season 19, but his impressive performance landed him a four-part stint on the acclaimed crime drama.

The character isn't in the league of *Criminal Minds'* sickening villains just yet, but there's no denying how enthralling Storrie's performance was in season 19, episode 4. The actor brought an entirely different energy to the crime drama, morphing into someone unrecognizable for *Heated Rivalry* fans. By the end of Lance's four-episode plot, Storrie will surely be remembered as one of *Criminal Minds: Evolution's* best recurring characters to date.

Without question, being able to pull off the tender nuances of Ilya Rozanov just as easily as the chilling telltale signs of an unstable murder suspect is a testament to Connor Storrie's widespread appeal. After *Heated Rivalry* ends, Storrie's untapped



When Heated Rivalry Fans Can Expect To See Connor Storrie Return As Ilya Rozanov

The Russian Sharpshooter Still Has Plenty To Prove

Before Connor Storrie can begin wholeheartedly pivoting to new genres and mediums, however, he first has to finish out Ilya Rozanov's story. The ending of *Heated Rivalry* season 1 left Shane and Ilya optimistic about their future as an official couple, but the next installment will be equally touching and tear-jerking, as season 2 will deal with the highs and lows of the main couple's secret relationship and coming out journey.



look forward to the show's second season in April, with a book's worth of new content coming a few months later. Accordingly, the television adaptation has been given a three-season greenlight, meaning Storrie will probably continue portraying Ilya Rozanov well into 2028.

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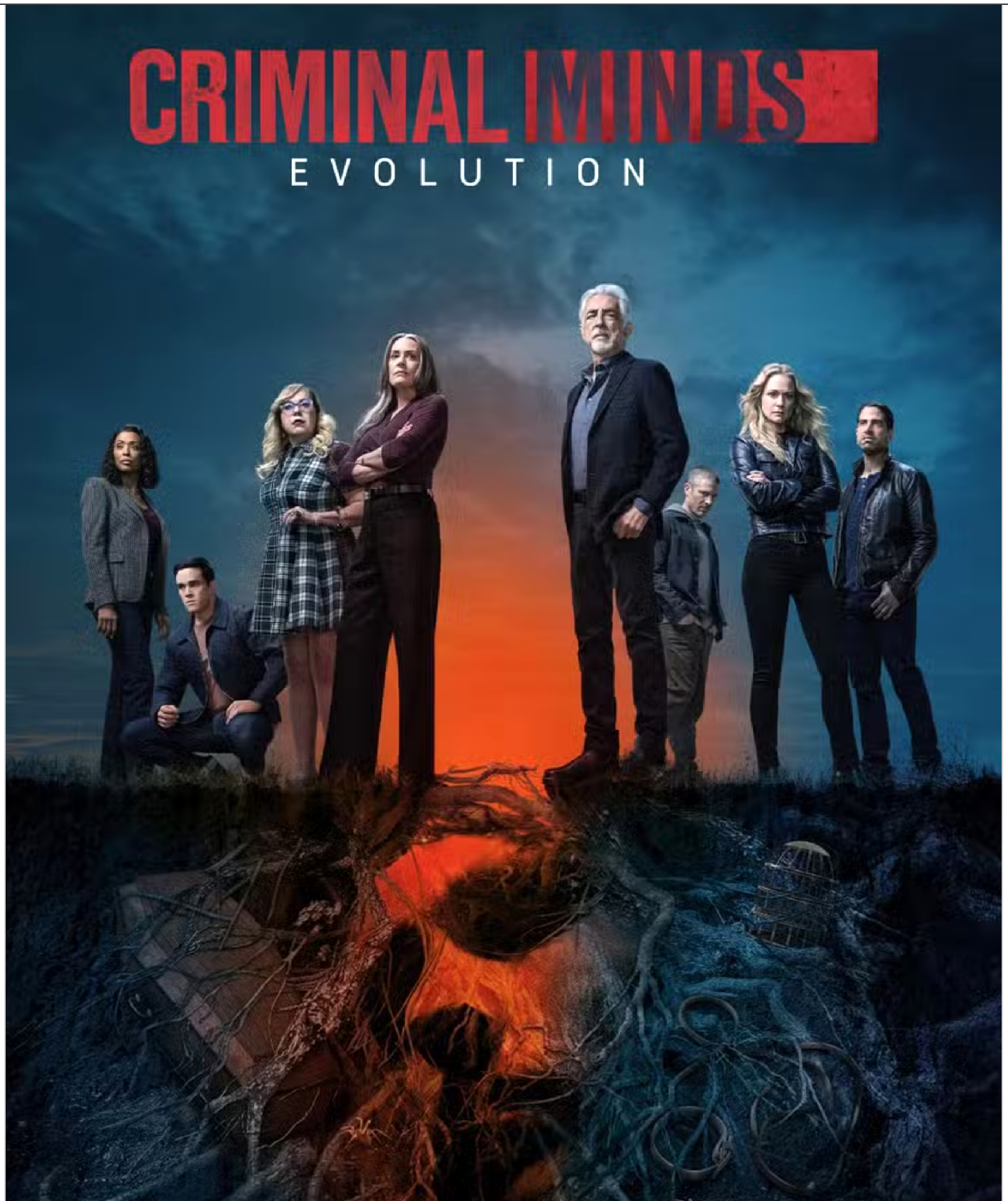
Heated Rivalry took the world by storm with its whirlwind first...

By [Shealyn Scott](#)



After the genre-defining queer sports romance concludes, there's no telling where Connor Storrie will take his promising career. Considering Storrie filmed his role in ***Criminal Minds*** season 19 before the world had even met his legendary Russian hockey player, whatever project he joins next will have the confidence of someone now well-versed in the entertainment industry. That alone is reason enough to keep an eye out for Storrie's next role— which certainly won't disappoint, if Lance Kingston is any indication.





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Cast



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