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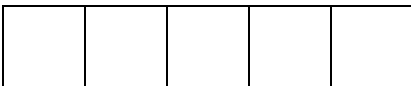
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30 JUNE 2026

Benito Skinner says two Heated Rivalry stars turned down Overcompensating roles

"Those boys are busy," said Skinner

By Aaron Sugg



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Benito Skinner (Image: Leigh Keily/Attitude)

Benito Skinner has revealed that two ***Heated Rivalry*** stars turned down roles in the Prime Video series ***Overcompensating*** season 2.

Skinner, who acts in and produces the American comedy series, told **etalk** he asked both **Hudson Williams** and Robbie G.K. to appear in guest-starring roles for season 2.

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“He is busy, I think, ultimately,” said Skinner about casting Williams. “We tried to bring Riley back, Robbie G.K., who we love so much, who was in season one. But again, those boys are busy.”

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something, he said.

Skinner acknowledged that the pair are preparing to film *Heated Rivalry* season 2 in **July 2026** in Montreal and Toronto, Canada.

What is *Heated Rivalry* season 2 about?

The gay romance hockey series, inspired by author Reid's *Game Changers* book series, was renewed for a second instalment in December last year, modelled on *The Long Game* novel.

Williams and **Connor Storrie** are set to reprise their roles as Shane and Ilya, picking up roughly ten years into their relationship (three years after the season 1 finale).

Reid's work explores Ilya's struggles with his mental health and his desire for a public relationship with Shane.

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season 2 is reportedly casting eight new characters – including a homophobic villain.

Production for *Overcompensating* season 2 began on 30 March 2026 and wrapped on 23 June. As of writing this, there is no official release date.

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30 JUNE 2026

Joe Lycett’s new career path unveiled as pub landlord for new Channel 4 series

Lycett admits it has been a long-held fantasy of his to run a pub, EastEnders-style... move over Kat Slater

By Aaron Sugg



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The Lycett Arms will only air once the comedian obtains the required paperwork, undertaking approved training and passing the Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders exam.

Lycett admits it has been a long-held fantasy of his to run a pub

The pub will have a unique concept: it will only be open for one hour a week during a live TV broadcast on Channel 4 every Friday at 10pm.

Speaking in a news release, Lycett admits it has been a long-held fantasy of his to run a pub, *EastEnders*-style... move over Kat Slater.

"I've always wanted to run a pub that only exists for an hour a week, for the purposes of a TV concept, and I'm thrilled beyond words to embark on the extended process of applying for a licence to sell and serve alcohol," said Lycett.

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“Nevertheless, I will meet my obligations to sit in front of a camera welcoming celebrities into the pub for great conversations and top comedy, it says here, and generally creating an unmissable event that will brighten your Friday evenings for six weeks. Those are all the words that I have been requested to say. Now I can return my attention to figuring out how to get round being locked out of Gov.uk.”

Tom Beck of Channel 4 welcomed Lycett’s resilience

Tom Beck, head of live events & commissioning editor, Entertainment & Reality at Channel 4, drew on Lycett’s resilience in the context of the “promise of legally binding admin”.

“Joe’s appetite for bureaucracy remains undimmed, and we are delighted that he has agreed to spend Friday nights running a pub that is open for one hour a week, while also reluctantly making what we are legally obliged to describe as a brilliant new live entertainment series.”

The Lycett Arms is produced by Bango Studios and My Options Were Ltd.

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As of writing this, there is no official release date. *The Lycett Arms* will be available to stream on **Channel 4** later this year.

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