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Books

New cast members announced for Heated Rivalry Season 2

Latest pair to join cast are Canadian Daniel Diemer and Welsh actor Shaheen Jafargholi

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Daniel Diemer, left, and Shaheen Jafargholi are the latest actors to be announced as part of the cast of Heated Rivalry Season 2. (Frederic J. BROWN / AFP via Getty Images, Tristan Fewings/Getty Images)

Two new cast members have been announced for Season 2 of Crave's blockbuster hockey drama *Heated Rivalry*.

Canadian actor Daniel Diemer, known for playing Tyson on the television show *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*, will star as hockey player Ryan Price.

Welsh actor Shaheen Jafargholi will play his love interest, musician Fabian Salah. Jafargholi appeared in the HBO series *War*.

The characters Ryan and Fabian are the protagonists of the third novel in Rachel Reid's bestselling *Game Changers* hockey romance series, *Tough Guy*.

It tells the story of pro hockey enforcer Ryan. When he's traded to the Toronto team, he's excited to experience the city's gay village. While exploring, Ryan runs into Fabian, an aspiring musician with whom he shared an almost-kiss in high school. Despite the years that have passed, their chemistry is undeniable. But a future together might mean Ryan has to give up hockey for good.



Tough Guy is a novel by Rachel Reid. (Carina Press, Caleb Latreille)

"Fabian and Ryan each bring a distinctive energy to the world Rachel Reid has created," said writer Jacob Tierney and producer Brendan Brady in a press statement.

"They are bold, complicated and deeply compelling characters, and finding actors who could really take on all of those different sides was so important to us. Daniel and Shaheen bring such confidence and emotional honesty to the roles. We can't wait for audiences to see what they do with Fabian and Ryan and how they make these characters their own."

Season 1 of the show adapted books one and two of Reid's series, *Game Changer* and *Heated Rivalry*.

Crave has said Season 2 of *Heated Rivalry* will continue to follow the story of hockey rivals-turned-lovers Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov from Reid's novel *The Long Game*.

Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie will reprise their starring roles in the TV adaptation.



Hudson Williams, left, and appears as Shane Hollander in a scene from Crave's Heated Rivalry alongside Connor Storrie, right who portrays Ilya Rozanov. (Crave)

The second season of the show will also incorporate the stories of Troy Barrett, a hockey player traded to Ilya's new team, and Harris Dover, a social media manager, from the fifth novel of the book series, *Role Model*.

- [Heated Rivalry Season 2 cast announcement sparks criticism from some fans over body diversity](#)

Crave [announced](#) Justice Smith was cast as Harris and Charlie Gillespie, star of *Julie and the Phantoms*, was cast as Troy.

Other new cast members include *Schitt's Creek*'s Emily Hampshire and drag queen Priyanka.

Heated Rivalry announces 4 Canadians joining the cast of season 2

Season 2 of *Heated Rivalry* will premiere in spring 2027.



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