



***The Daily Show's* Troy Iwata Is the New Shane Hollander in *Heated Rivalry* Musical Parody**

The comedian and actor will take over the role Aug. 31, starring opposite Jay Armstrong Johnson's Ilya Rozanov in the Off-Broadway hit

By **Dave Quinn** | Published on August 17, 2026 05:10PM EDT

 **LEAVE A COMMENT**



SKIP TO CONTENT



NEED TO KNOW

Troy Iwata will star as Shane Hollander in the Off-Broadway musical parody *Heated Rivalry* starting Aug. 31

The show, inspired by a hit hockey romance, features a comedic take on a secret love story between rivals

Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody will run at The Culture Club in NYC through Nov. 1

[Troy Iwata](#) is trading *The Daily Show* for some heated competition on the ice.

The comedian and actor, 35, will take over the role of Shane Hollander in [Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody](#), the cheeky Off-Broadway musical inspired by the hit hockey romance, beginning Monday, Aug. 31.

Iwata will succeed Aaron Alcaraz, who plays his final performance as Shane on Sunday, Aug. 30. He'll star opposite [Jay Armstrong Johnson](#), who originated the role of Shane's Russian rival-turned-lover Ilya Rozanov.

First-look photos released Monday, Aug. 17, show Iwata already getting into the hockey spirit, posing shirtless with a hockey stick and red gloves as Shane.

SKIP TO CONTENT



Jay Armstrong Johnson and Troy Iwata in a promo photo for 'Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody'.

Credit: Austin Ruffer

The casting marks a return to the New York stage for Iwata, who currently serves as a correspondent on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*. He previously appeared on Broadway and Off-Broadway in *Be More Chill*, and his other theater credits include productions of *Shrek the Musical*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *Waitress* at The Muny.

On screen, Iwata has appeared in Netflix's *Too Much* and *The Perfect Couple*, Apple TV+'s *WeCrashed*, *Dash & Lily*, *New Amsterdam* and *Ray Donovan*.

SKIP TO CONTENT

amed one of *Variety's* 10 Comics to Watch in 2024.



Jay Armstrong Johnson and Troy Iwata in a promo photo for 'Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody'.

Credit: Austin Ruffer



Our new app is here! Free, fun and full of exclusives. Scan to download now!

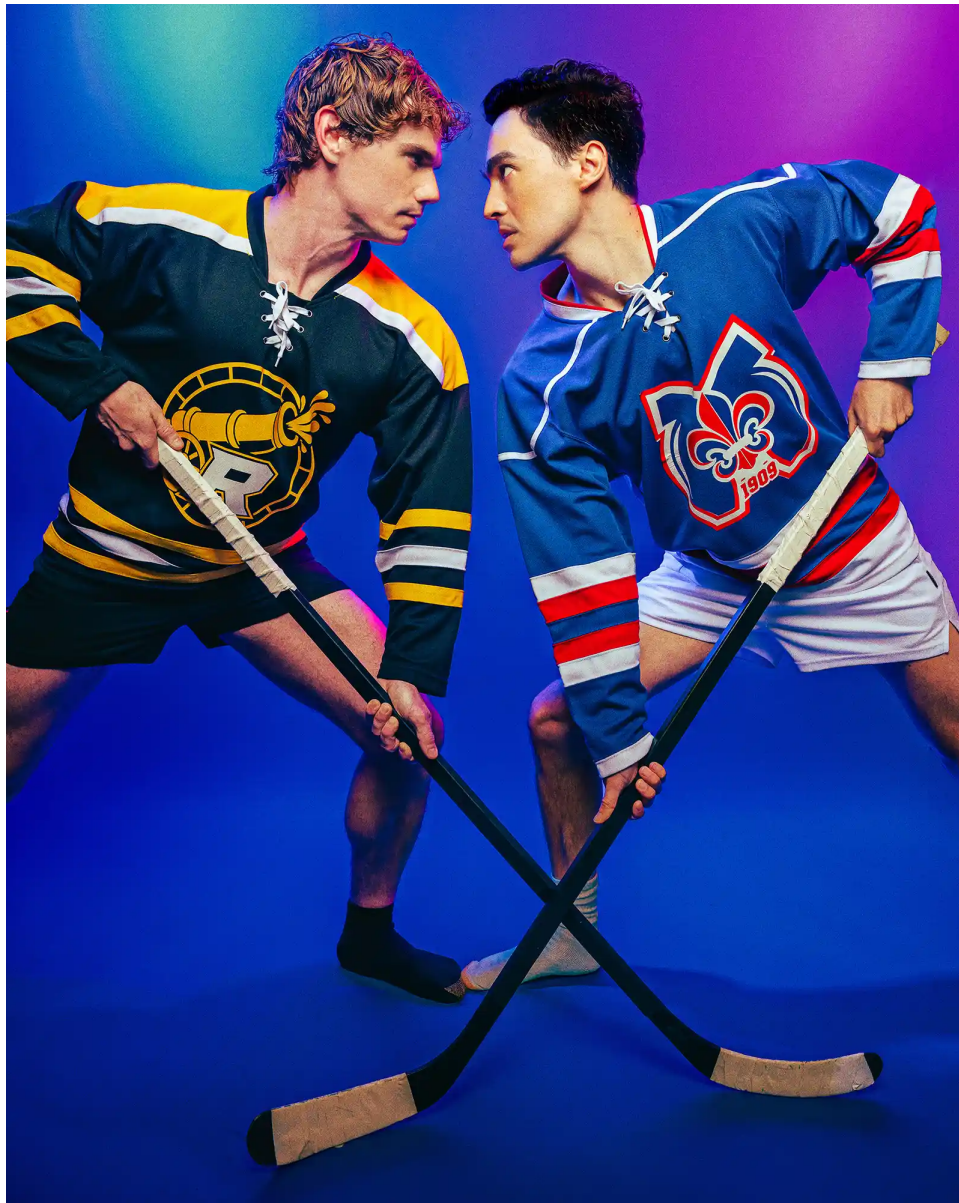


Iwata joins the show after what was initially planned as an eight-week engagement turned into a much longer stay Off-Broadway.

After launching with a series of sold-out concert performances earlier this

SKIP TO CONTENT *rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody* began its fully

Written by Dylan MarcAurele and directed by Alan Kliffer, the musical is a music-filled send-up inspired by the HBO Max adaptation of Rachel Reid's bestselling 2019 hockey romance novel. The story centers on Shane and Ilya, rival professional hockey stars whose fiercely competitive relationship masks a years-long secret romance.



Jay Armstrong Johnson and Troy Iwata in a promo photo for 'Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody'.

Credit: Austin Ruffer

[SKIP TO CONTENT](#)



SUBSCRIBE



stay up-to-date on the best of what PEOPLE has to offer, from celebrity news to compelling human interest stories.

The television adaptation, developed by Crave and streaming on HBO Max, turned the story into a pop culture phenomenon and made breakout stars of [Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie](#), who play Shane and Ilya, respectively.

The musical takes a decidedly less serious approach to their love story.

Promising to revisit the moments from the series that made fans “wet (with tears),” the production features a “bop-infused” original score, some deliberately confusing time jumps and appearances from characters including “Rose Landry” and, yes, “Ilya’s Ass.”

Because this is *Heated Rivalry*, after all.

SKIP TO CONTENT

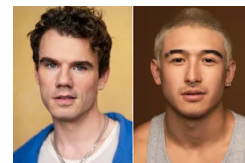


Jay Armstrong Johnson and Troy Iwata in a promo photo for 'Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody'.

Credit: Austin Ruffer

RELATED STORIES

Heated Rivalry Heads to the Stage as Unauthorized Musical Parody Sets Off-Broadway Run After Sold-Out Concerts



[SKIP TO CONTENT](#)



SUBSCRIBE



Heated Rivalry Heads to the Stage as Unauthorized Musical Parody Sets Off-Broadway Run.

'Heated Rivalry: the Unauthorized Musical Parody'.
Credit: Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody'

Johnson continues as Ilya, with Ryann Redmond, Cherry Torres and Ryan Duncan rounding out the current ensemble. Torres will play her final performance Sept. 9, with current company member Shelby Acosta assuming the role of Shane's Mom & Others beginning Sept. 10.

SKIP TO CONTENT

[Tickets for *Heated Rivalry: The Unauthorized Musical Parody*](#) are now on sale through Nov. 1.

LEAVE A COMMENT 

Trending Now

 **Dylan Walsh seated at a table juxtaposed with two men standing side by side in a different setting**

***Heated Rivalry* Actor Spills Season 2 Details in Viral Video That 'Got Me in Trouble'**

Entertainment • 4 days ago

 **Christina Chang, Soam Lall, Wedding**

 **Lacey Chabert visits SiriusXM Studios to discuss her new Hallmark film "She's Making a List" on November 03, 2025 in New York City.**

SKIP TO CONTENT

**s Christina Chang
ne Love Soam Lall in**

**Lacey Chabert Reveals the Unexpected
Reason a Fan Recently Stopped Her,**



SUBSCRIBE



Entertainment > Today's go

All comments are subject to our [Community Guidelines](#). PEOPLE does not endorse the opinions and views shared by readers in our comment sections.

Related Articles



10 THINGS I HATE
ABOUT YOU, Heath
Ledger, Julia Stiles

THEATER

***10 Things I Hate About You* Is Coming to Broadway, with Lena Dunham and Carly Rae Jepsen Behind New Musical**

By Dave Quinn



Reece Weaver
attends America's
Sweethearts

THEATER

Reece Weaver to Make Broadway Debut as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* After Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Retirement

By Dave Quinn

[SKIP TO CONTENT](#)



SUBSCRIBE



Time: 'A Pinch Me Moment'

By Dave Quinn



Megan Thee

Stallion, Kelsie Watts,
David Harris

THEATER

***Moulin Rouge!* Star Kelsie Watts Details Fight That Nearly Broke Out in Front Row of Broadway Hit**

By Jack Smart

The Greatest
Showman

THEATER

***The Greatest Showman* to 'Come Alive' on Stage as Musical Heads to London's West End**

By Dave Quinn



Tom Felton

Recreates Iconic
Draco Malfoy
Moment as He

THEATER

Tom Felton Sets Final Performance as Draco Malfoy in Broadway's *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*

By Dave Quinn

Keri Russell on the
left and Sara
Bareilles on the right
each shown in

THEATER

Keri Russell Can't Bring Herself to See the *Waitress* Musical: 'It Just Feels Weird'

By Dave Quinn

Individual posing
in front of a
Television Academy
event backdrop

THEATER

***Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* Star Rachel Bloom to Make Her Broadway Debut, but Not in a Musical**

By Dave Quinn

[SKIP TO CONTENT](#)



SUBSCRIBE



Affluenza, Where He Gets to Tackle 'Two Very Different Roles'

By Dave Quinn



Whitney Leavitt First
Curtain Call in
'Chicago' on
Broadway, New York,

THEATER

Whitney Leavitt Reveals She's Returning to Broadway to Star in *Just in Time* After Breaking Box Office Records in *Chicago* (Exclusive)

By Lizzie Hyman



Daveed Diggs is
Thomas Jefferson in
HAMILTON, the
filmed version of the

THEATER

Daveed Diggs Isn't Ready to Follow His *Hamilton* Costars Back to Broadway: 'I'm So Tired'

By Dave Quinn and Rachel McRady



David Hyde Pierce
attends "This Place
Matters! Ten
Chimneys" New York

THEATER

David Hyde Pierce, Danielle Brooks and Ayo Edebiri to Lead *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* Revival Off-Broadway

By Dave Quinn



Tom Felton 'Nearly
Cried' Performing in
Harry Potter Play with
Costar and 'Dear

THEATER

Tom Felton 'Nearly Cried' Performing in *Harry Potter* Play with Costar and 'Dear Friend' Warwick Davis in Audience

By Niya Doyle



The Festival Brings
Theater Fans and
Stage Stars Together
as the 3-Day

THEATER

The Festival Brings Theater Fans and Stage Stars Together as the 3-Day 'Coachella for Broadway' Gathering Comes to Life

By Dave Quinn

[SKIP TO CONTENT](#)



SUBSCRIBE



Exclusive Backstage
Photos of

Backstage, Onstage and Behind the Scenes (Exclusive Photos)

By Dave Quinn



Anthony Gargiula

THEATER

Anthony Gargiula, Singer and Social Media Star, Sets Broadway Debut in *& Juliet* (Exclusive)

By Dave Quinn



GET MORE IN OUR FREE APP



NEWSLETTERS

Follow Us



NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT

SKIP TO CONTENT

ALS

LIFESTYLE



SUBSCRIBE



ABOUT US

[Editorial Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Your Privacy Choices](#)

PEOPLE tested

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Advertise](#)

People Inc.

PEOPLE is part of the [People Inc.](#) publishing family.