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ENTERTAINMENT

^{'heated' revelry} **Wait, what were these *Heated Rivalry* stars doing on stage with RuPaul? We have a theory!**

Cameron Scheetz

August 24, 2026, 2:00 pm PDT



Look out NYC! Move over West Hollywood! Suddenly it feels like Toronto is the epicenter of gay life... and that's due largely to the fact *Heated Rivalry* has begun filming its highly anticipated second season in the Canadian metropolis.

Yes, all eyes are on the Ottawa capital as stars Connor Storrie & Hudson Williams reunite on the city streets alongside **series newcomers Justice Smith & Charlie Gillespie**—set to play the two halves of *another* hot hockey romance—in addition to **Schitt's Creek's Emily Hampshire, Young Royals' Edwin Ryding, comedian Sabrina Jalees, and drag royalty Priyanka**.



But Priyanka's not the only queen taking the city by storm: Over the weekend, RuPaul himself ventured north of the border to perform a live DJ set at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre Concert Stage, and the night became an unexpected *Heated Rivalry* crossover event!

During the rousing set—which saw the Queen Of Drag spinning some of her favorite tracks & shaking her "starrbooty" all over the place—Mama Ru surprised the audience by bringing both Smith & Gillespie out to keep the party going.

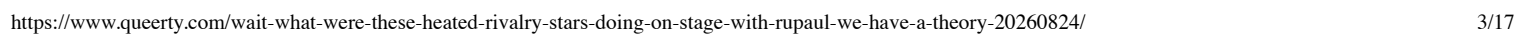
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Smith was reportedly on stage for "**almost all of**" Ru's set, clacking fans & hyping up the crowd, while Gillespie went full Benson Boone mode by treating the masses to a number of impressive backflips & cartwheels.



Heated Rivalry France

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It looks like Justice Smith and Charlie Gillespie had a great night out yesterday in Toronto during RuPaul's set.

So many questions 😂

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The pair is set to play Harris Drover & Troy Barrett, respectively, two characters whose unlikely relationship takes center stage in Rachel Reid's *Role Model* novel, the plot of which is expected to be incorporated into *Heated Rivalry* Season 2.

Given that this was their first public appearance together since their casting was announced, fans are going wild for the footage—seeing them have such a blast with each other certainly bodes well for their on-screen chemistry!

But there's another layer to this surprise link-up that has us very intrigued...

Heated Rivalry Updates

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Justice Smith and Charlie Gillespie with RuPaul last night in Toronto.

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Wait, is that RuPaul biopic with Justice Smith actually happening?

You might remember that, in the wake of Ru's memoir, *The House Of Hidden Meanings*, there was a lot of talk about a potential biopic, which the *Drag Race* host acknowledged directly:

"You know, for years, people have asked me: Who would play me in a movie?," Ru said in a 2024 Instagram video, "And my stock answer was always Mary Kate & Ashley Olsen." (We *need* to see that, by the way!) "But on a serious note, it's come up a lot more recently since the memoir has come out. There's that kid who I just love, whose name is Justice Smith—I think he would do a really, really good job. He's a fantastic actor, and I just love his energy; there's a sweetness about him that I just love."



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Original audio

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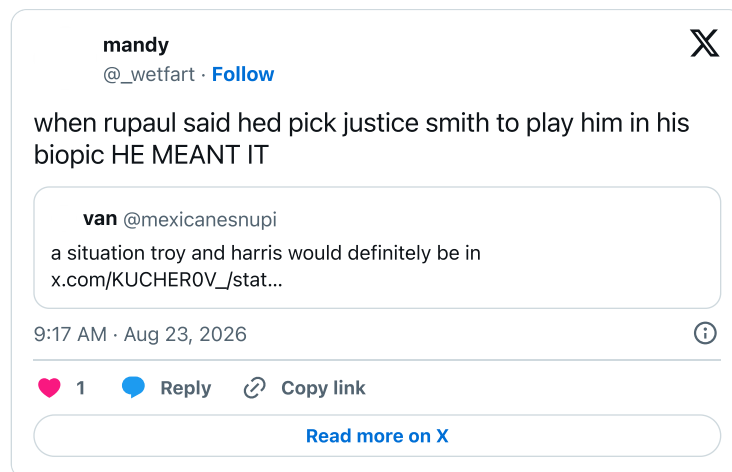
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Smith, for his part, was completely flattered by that stamp of approval, later saying on the **Zach Sang Show** he was terrified by the prospect of playing Ru yet would “say yes in a heartbeat” were such a project to actually come together.

And that’s the last we’ve actually heard on this hypothetical biopic. *However*, it seems pretty clear now that Smith & Ru have been in touch, to some degree, right?

Out of the drag world, Ru’s pretty notoriously a private person these days, so we don’t think he’d let just anyone up on stage with him—he barely even remembers the queens he’s crowned on his show! Plus, there’s been no other indication that these two have actually crossed paths before (Smith’s never even been a guest judge on *Drag Race*, which just feels wrong!). Could it be that they *have* met about a potential movie and stayed connected since? Has a biopic been in the works this whole time?



Look, a guest spot during a DJ set doesn’t actually confirm anything; we’re just noting that this seemingly random collab might not be random at all! Smith & Ru *do* have a little history—and they could have quite a future working together, too!

And while we’re talking completely unfounded hypotheticals, here’s another fun one for you: What if RuPaul is in *Heated Rivalry*?

We’ve mentioned previously that the National Hockey League commissioner Roger Crowell is expected to have a pivotal role in Season 2, though no one’s been cast in the part yet. The character is a bigot, to put it bluntly, who’s effectively the main antagonist of the whole story—wouldn’t it be fun to see Ru sink his teeth into a villainous (and straight) role? It could be like **his turn as the ex-gay conversion therapy counselor in *But I’m A Cheerleader*** but somehow even campier! Jacob Tierney, are you listening?

Anyway, we have major FOMO from RuPaul’s Toronto DJ set, so we hope this isn’t the last we’ll see of Ru with Justice Smith. We’ll be sure to keep you updated on all the latest with *Heated Rivalry* Season 2 and that biopic we’re still hoping for, so stay tuned!

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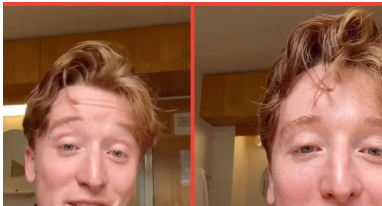
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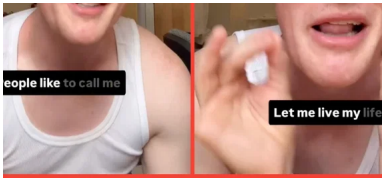


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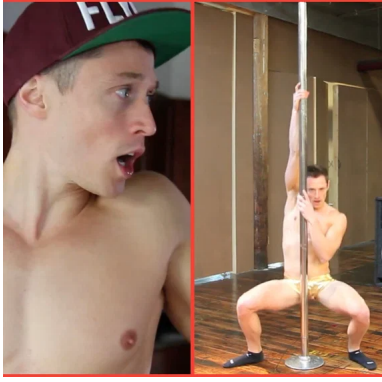
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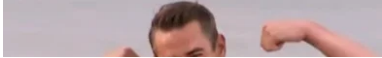
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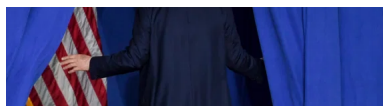
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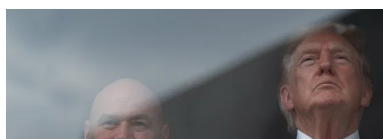
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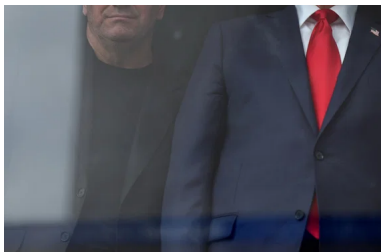


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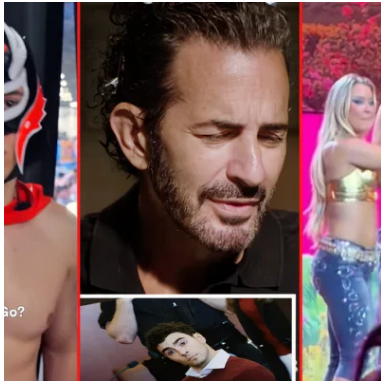
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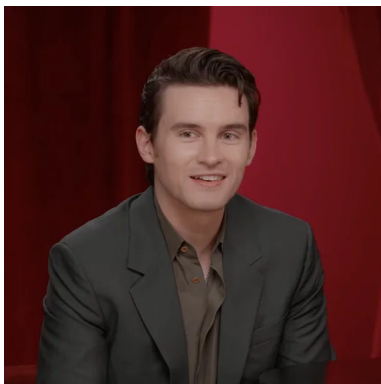
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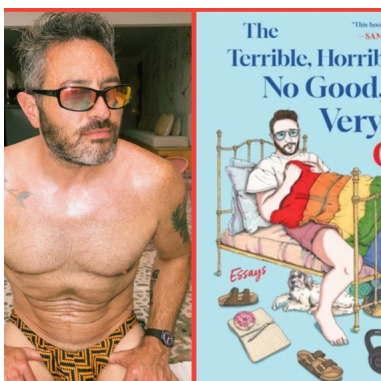
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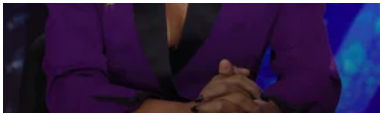
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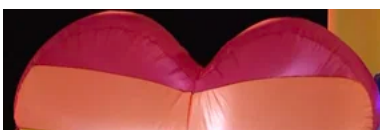
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