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Milla Jovovich joins *Heated Rivalry* season 2 as 3 more key roles confirmed

Kevin Zegers will also play one of the more beloved characters, while Paul Gross plays the most reviled.

By **Nick Romano** | September 3, 2026 2:00 p.m. ET

  3  •  **1 COMMENT**

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Kevin Zegers, Milla Jovovich, Paul Gross join 'Heated Rivalry' season 2.

Credit: Courtesy of Kevin Zegers; An Le; Courtesy of HBO Max

KEY POINTS

Heated Rivalry season 2 fills three more key roles, including one with *Resident Evil* star Milla Jovovich.

Jovovich will play Ilya's therapist Dr. Galina Molchalina.

Kevin Zegers and Paul Gross also join, the former as one of the more beloved characters and the other as the most reviled.

[Heated Rivalry](#) season 2 landed the biggest celebrity name to join the cast to date.

[Milla Jovovich](#) of *Resident Evil* and *The Fifth Element* fame joins the romance drama as Dr. Galina Molchalina, the Russian therapist Ilya Rozanov ([Connor Storrie](#)) sees when dealing with depression and anxiety.

SKIP TO CONTENT

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play Season 2, his rivale coach on the Ottawa Senators. In the timeline of Rachel Reid's *Game Changers* books, Ilya leaves the Boston Raiders to go play for the much lesser-known team in order to be closer to Shane Hollander ([Hudson Williams](#)) as the still-secret lovers navigate their relationship and very public lives.

Paul Gross (Broadway's *Good Night, and Good Luck*; *Tales of the City*) will play Commissioner Roger Crowell, who heads the National Hockey League and is a proper villain of the romance book series. He often pressures and sometimes threatens players to stay in the closet or, in the case of other characters, speaking out on social issues. (Just a reminder to the *Heated Rivalry* fan base: actors are not their characters. Repeat: Actors are not their characters.)

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Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams on 'Heated Rivalry' season 1.

Credit: Sabrina Lantos/HBO

[Returning from season 1](#) are, obviously, Williams and Storrie as the two main hockey hunks, Shane and Ilya.

Plus, there's François Arnaud and Robbie G.K. as "Skip" couple Scott Hunter and Kip Grady; [Sophie Nélisse](#) as actress Rose Landry; Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova as Ilya's former friend with benefits, Svetlana; Christina Chang and Dylan Walsh as Shane's parents, Yuna and David; Callan Potter and Benjamin Roy as Shane's Montreal teammates Hayden and JJ; and Kamilla Kowal as Hayden's wife, Jackie.

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Among [the newcomers on season 2](#) are [Justice Smith](#) as Harris Drover, Charlie Gillespie as Troy Barrett, [Daniel Diemer as Ryan Price](#), [Shaheen Jafargholi as Fabian Salah](#), [Emily Hampshire](#) as Vanessa, Edwin Ryding as Luca Haas, Robert Naylor as Wyatt Hayes, Priyanka as Tarek, and Sabrina Jalees as Farah.

Heated Rivalry season 2 will adapt the events of Reid's *The Long Game* and *Role Model*, the author's two *Game Changers* books that focus on two couples during the same time span.



Sophie Nélisse, Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova on 'Heated Rivalry'

Hudson Williams, Sophie Nélisse, Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova, and Connor Storrie on 'Heated Rivalry' season 1.

Credit: HBO Max

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their new reality. Shan... them if they come out of the closet, while Ilya struggles with depression. Meanwhile, [a different romance begins to bloom](#) as Troy Barrett, a troubled hockey player traded to the Centaurs, falls for the team's social media manager, Harris Drover.

The show is expected to also incorporate [elements from Reid's other books in the series](#), including *Tough Guy*.

Heated Rivalry season 2 is currently filming in Canada in advance of a spring 2027 premiere. The show will be released through Crave in Canada and HBO Max in the U.S. and various other territories.

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Two individuals
sitting at a bar
each holding a
beverage facing

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Justice Smith
smiling with
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Connor Storrie
as Ilya Rozanov and
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as Shane

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Three people posing in separate panels each looking towards

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Connor Storrie as Ilya Rozanov and Hudson Williams as Shane

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