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Hudson Williams Opens Up About Returning To 'Heated Rivalry' At TIFF

The actor opened up about finding his way back to Shane Hollander for the highly anticipated second season





BY GUGLIELMO SCRITTORE

SEP 18, 2026

Hudson Williams spent Thursday at the Toronto International Film Festival confronting the strange reality of returning to *Heated Rivalry* after the series became a global phenomenon.

During TIFF's "Making Waves With... Hudson Williams" conversation, Williams opened up about the difficulty of stepping back into Shane Hollander for Season 2, admitting that he and Connor Storrie were initially unsure whether they could simply slip back into their characters.

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After Storrie began filming, Williams said he started questioning his own performance before even stepping onto the set.

When Williams eventually began filming, he encountered a similar uncertainty. "Am I doing a Shane impression?" Williams says of the first days of filming. "I was like, 'Oh I'm losing you, I'm losing you.'"

Fortunately, the familiarity of the production helped settle him back into Shane. "It came back, thankfully," he said.

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Williams also described the experience as “surreal,” particularly because the cast and crew were returning to a world that had changed dramatically since Season 1. The first season's success, he explained, had made their memories of making the show inseparable from the enormous reaction that followed. “Our memory isn’t ours, it’s everyone’s,” Williams said.

The actor's TIFF appearance came as he also premiered *Yaga*, Crave’s supernatural mystery series, alongside Carrie-Anne Moss, Noah Reid and Clark Backo. Meanwhile, production on *Heated Rivalry* Season 2 is underway in Canada, with Williams and Storrie reprising their roles as Shane and Ilya. The new season is expected to arrive on Crave and HBO Max in 2027.

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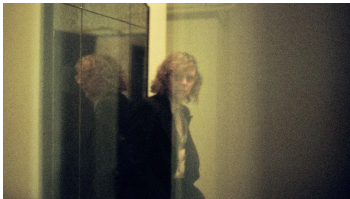
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Hudson Williams and Carrie-Anne Moss in 'Yaga.' /Christopher Lawrence/Crave

Hudson Williams Takes on a New Mystery in Upcoming Series 'YAGA'

BY GUGLIELMO SCRITTORE Sep 17, 2026

For a guy who was still waiting tables a few months ago with dreams of breaking out as an actor, Hudson Williams must feel pretty busy these days. The *Heated Rivalry* phenom stars in *YAGA*, a new Crave Original that makes its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival today, before arriving on the streaming service next October 23. The eight-episode series comes from Canadian playwright and showrunner Kat Sandler, who adapted the project from her 2019 play of [*Keep Reading* →](#)

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A scene from the doc 'Neil Peart: No One's Disciple.'

New Rush Doc Says Proper Farewell to a King – And a Friend

BY DAVID FEAR Sep 17, 2026

“Two fat fingers” — that’s how Geddy Lee describes it. The singer and bassist for Rush is sitting in a private room of a restaurant that doubles as a wine cellar, and he’s just pulled a few choice selections from the shelf. He uncorks one and serves Alex Lifeson, fellow founding member and guitarist, who deadpans, “Oh, I’ve stopped drinking... but I’ll just start again now.” Lee fills his glass from a second bottle, bantering away with his lifelong pal before picking up a third. It’s not vino but a rich, brown spirit. Macallan 25, to be exact. This was the poison of choice of Neil Peart, Rush’s drummer for over 40 years. Whenever they’d finish for the day in the studio, or when Lee or Lifeson would drop by Peart’s place for a visit, he’d usually break out the Scotch.

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'Widow's Bay' Wins Outstanding Comedy Series at 2026 Emmys./Chloe Kern/WireImage

Emmys 2026: The Best, Worst, and Most WTF Moments

BY ANDY GREENE & CT JONES & MARIA FONTOURA Sep 15, 2026

A lot of questions lingered in the air before the 2026 Emmys: Would Vince Gilligan go-to Rhea Seehorn finally take home an Emmy? Would producers find a way to shoehorn variety-special nominee Taylor Swift into the broadcast? Was *Widow's Bay* going to clean up after entering the awards with 19 nominations? Should the writers have questioned their judgment if they decided to open up the show with an extended "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" parody featuring dancers with TV sets on their heads? The answers to those questions are yes, yes, yes, and yes.

The *Widow's Bay* team did indeed take home a boatload (no pun intended) of Emmys: six on the night, which, added to the eight they'd already won at the earlier Creative Arts Emmys ceremony, brought their total to 14 — one more than the record for a comedy series set by *The Studio* last year. There were deserved honors for Jean Smart, Noah Wyle, and Stephen Colbert, and a moving speech by Michael J. Fox, who took home the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for his advocacy for those living with Parkinson's disease. But as with most awards shows, there were plenty of downs to go with those ups.

Matthew Rhys wins Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series Award for ‘Widow's Bay’ and Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie Award for ‘The Beast in Me’ at 2026 Emmy Awards./NBC via Getty Images

Emmy Awards 2026: See the Complete Winners List

BY ALTHEA LEGASPI Sep 15, 2026

The 2026 Emmy Awards are here — and the stars have come out in full force to celebrate the best in television and accept their trophies.

This year, medical drama *The Pitt* led all nominees with 25, including Outstanding Drama Series, a distinction the show won last year alongside acting wins for stars Noah Wylie and Katherine LaNasa. This year, Wylie, LaNasa, Patrick Ball, Shawn Hatosy, Gerran Howell, Taylor Dearden, Fiona Dourif, and Sepideh Moafi are all nominated for the **Keep Reading →**

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Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen/**Dan Arnold**/Hilarity for Charity

Seth Rogen Honoured With Career Achievement Award at TIFF

BY GUGLIELMO SCRITTORE Sep 14, 2026

Seth Rogen was officially welcomed into TIFF's Canadian hall of fame Sunday night, receiving the Norman Jewison Career Achievement Award at the festival's annual Tribute Awards.

The Vancouver-born actor, writer, producer and director was honoured for a career that has stretched from *Freaks and Geeks* and *Superbad* to *Pineapple Express*, *The Fabelmans* and the Emmy-winning Apple TV+ series *The Studio*. The award recognizes Canadian talent whose work has made a global

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