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EXCLUSIVE

Heated Rivalry's Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova Reveals How Filming "Changed for the Better" With Season 2

Heated Rivalry star Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova shared a glimpse into working on season two of the hockey romance during an exclusive E! News interview at the 2026 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

By BRAHMJOT KAUR OCT 19, 2026 2:18 AM | UPDATED OCT 19, 2026 2:20 AM TAGS

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Filming *Heated Rivalry* season two has been an unrivaled experience.

Just ask **Ksenia Daniela Kharlamova**. After all, the actress reflected on returning to the steamy hockey romance alongside costars **Hudson Williams** and **Connor Storrie**, plus a new ensemble of characters from **Rachel Reid**'s *Game Changers* universe.

"It's still very grounded and fun and light-hearted," Kharlamova exclusively told E! News at the 2026 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show on Oct. 18. "It's just fun being on the set. All the new cast members are so fun."

While Williams and Storrie are bringing Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov back to life, respectively, **Justice Smith** is making his

Heated Rivalry debut as social media manager Harris Drover for Ottawa—a.k.a. Ilya's new team—opposite **Charlie Gillespie**'s hockey player Troy Barrett.

Other new additions include **Daniel Diemer** as Toronto's Ryan Price, his love interest Fabian Salah (**Shaheen Jafargholi**) and **Emily Hampshire** as Fabian's BFF Vanessa.



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"It's awesome," Kharlamova—who plays Ilya's best friend Svetlana Vetrova—added. "It's changed it for the better. It's like having more friends there."

The model couldn't help but praise the show's director and creator **Jacob Tierney**, adding that he is "just such a great person to be around."

Although Kharlamova admitted that she couldn't share any more details about filming, Tierney previously revealed how Svetlana ultimately has continued to become a “more rounded and important character” in the series.



Maya Dehlin/Getty Images

"I do think that telling an honest story about queer men involves female allies because that's our lives, especially when you're young," he told the audience at the A Night of *Heated Rivalry* in Brooklyn earlier this month. But he added, with Ilya, "because he's so internal. I was like, 'You need to talk to somebody.'"

And fans will get to see more of the best friends in the upcoming installment, which is set to premiere in spring 2027.

"This happens a lot in season two, where he's lying, but at least he's saying something out loud," Tierney continued. "It's so interesting to have to watch him call her and be like, 'I'm fine. I love it here.' You're like, 'OK, well, you're not.'"

While fans wait for Kharlamova's return in *Heated Rivalry* season two, keep reading to see the actress and more celebs who attended