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# Jacob Tierney

Meet one of the artists, disruptors, educators, groundbreakers, innovators, and storytellers who all helped make the world a better place for LGBTQ+ people.



Jacob Tierney/ Ted Belton



By Ricky Cornish
Oct 21, 2026

Two words: *Heated Rivalry*.

Jacob Tierney is the queer mastermind who decided to bring Rachel Reid's popular *Game Changers* book series to the screen by creating *Heated Rivalry*. The gay hockey romance immediately reached mainstream success, broke records on streamers Crave and HBO Max, and catapulted its leading men into superstardom.

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Currently in production on its second season, *Heated Rivalry* won the GLAAD Award for Outstanding New Television Series, earned a Peabody Award for its profound cultural footprint, and garnered a record-breaking 16 Canadian Screen Awards. Tierney's vision as a gay executive producer turned the series into a global pop culture phenomenon.

Heated Rivalry inspired professional athletes to come out, caused a surge in NHL ticket sales, served as the basis for an off-Broadway musical parody, and even opened the door for Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams to serve as official torchbearers during the Olympic Torch Relay in Feltre, Italy.

“I’m very proud that my show inserted some joy into what was otherwise kind of a dreary year. It seems that it made a lot of people, especially queer people, really happy, and that makes me very happy,” Tierney tells *Out*.

It’s safe to say that we all want to head to the cottage. @jacob.tierney

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By Dawn Ennis Oct 21, 2026

Kerrice Brooks / Steve-Granitz/FilmMagic/GettyImages

On Star Trek: Starfleet Academy, Kerrice Brooks plays a new kind of hologram named SAM, an acronym for “Series Acclimation Mil.” Her character is the academy’s first “photonic” cadet, referring to beings or tech composed of particles of light and energy. Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Karim Diané

By Dawn Ennis Oct 21, 2026

Karim Diané / Roy Rochlin/Getty Images for Paramount+

Not only is Karim Diané's character on Star Trek: Starfleet Academy a very non-traditional Klingon — you know, that violent, warrior race that was once the galaxy's biggest baddies — but Cadet Jay-Den Kraag wants to be a doctor, wears a skirt, and has a boyfriend. Keep Reading →

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By Christopher Wiggins Oct 21, 2026

Eugene Daniels / Courtesy of MS NOW

Eugene Daniels spends his days in conversation with power — and translating what he learns for people outside Washington. He says his work is about questioning influential figures on how they wield authority, holding them accountable, and giving audiences information they can use in their own lives. Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Gina Yashere

By Dawn Ennis Oct 21, 2026

Gina Yashere / Sarah Coulter

British-born comedian, actor, and showrunner Gina Yashere plays tough, no-nonsense Cadet Master Lura Thok on Star Trek: Starfleet Academy, making history as the franchise's first half-Klingon, half-Jem'Hadar character. Thok and Commander Jett Reno, played by fellow comic Tig Notaro, are a lesbian couple in the series. Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Hayley Kiyoko

By Samantha Allen Oct 21, 2026

Hayley Kiyoko / Grace Scuitto

This was a full-circle year for Hayley Kiyoko. The multi-hyphenate's breakout 2015 music video "Girls Like Girls" — which she adapted into a book in 2023 — became a full-length film with Focus Features in 2026. Sitting in the director's chair? None other than Kiyoko herself. On top of that milestone, she released a Girls Like Girls soundtrack album featuring catchy collabs with fellow lesbian pop royalty. Keep Reading →

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Sarah Longwell / Pete Kiehart

Sarah Longwell's work starts with a proposition: Voters who disagree can still be persuaded.
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Emily Sweeney

Emily Sweeney's Boston accent is already the stuff of legend. Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Tig Notaro

By Dawn Ennis Oct 21, 2026

Tig Notaro / Zack Snyder

On Star Trek: Discovery and now Star Trek: Starfleet Academy, actor, comedian, writer, and producer Tig Notaro plays the cocky, brilliant, dry-witted, and queer Commander Jett Reno — the other half of a lesbian couple with costar and fellow comic Gina Yashere. Keep Reading →

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Tefi Pessoa / Sarah Krick

Not many people get to be a mononym, but Tefi's one of them. Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Will Ganss

By Desiree Guerrero Oct 21, 2026

Will Ganss / Courtesy of ABC

Will Ganss is an Emmy-winning journalist for Good Morning America and ABC News (and the go-to source for all things Taylor Swift) who covers major red carpets and interviews A-list stars. But Ganss' true mission "is to elevate LGBTQ+ voices, stories of addiction and recovery, and spotlight the everyday heroes inspiring change and connection within their communities." Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Jonathan Capehart

By Christopher Wiggins Oct 21, 2026

Jonathan Capehart / Courtesy of MS NOW

Jonathan Capehart entered journalism without a blueprint. No one in his family worked in news, so he built his own way in by saying his ambition out loud. The lesson became his mantra: “When someone asks you what you want, tell them!” Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Los Javis

By Mathew Rodriguez Oct 21, 2026

Los Javis / Quil Lemons

Shaking up this year's Oscar race and bringing filmmaking just as epic as The Odyssey (but way more queer) to cinemas nationwide, Spanish directing duo Javier Calvo and Javier Ambrossi — aka Los Javis — might be the hottest directors of the present, but their acclaimed La Bola Negra is indebted to the past. Their film honors the often-untold struggles LGBTQ+ people have faced throughout history. Keep Reading →

# The 2026 Out100: Josh Silver

By Daniel Reynolds Oct 21, 2026

Josh Silver / Declan Kelly

Writer's block figures prominently in Fruit Fly, a new novel about an author who, desperate for a hit, appropriates the story of a young gay man struggling with drug addiction. Thankfully, Fruit Fly's novelist, Josh Silver, put pen to paper for his New York Times bestseller, which is already being developed into a television show by A24. Keep Reading →

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By Samantha Allen Oct 21, 2026

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Jane Schoenbrun / Mila Matveeva

Jane Schoenbrun turned sapphic dreams into celluloid this year. Keep Reading →

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