# Jonathan Bailey on why appearing in Heartstopper was 'cathartic'



Jonathan Bailey, known for his portrayal of Anthony Bridgerton in Netflix’s popular series Bridgerton, has made a cameo appearance in the third season of Netflix's acclaimed series Heartstopper [pictured]. In this latest venture, he plays Jack Maddox, a classical historian admired by the character Charlie, portrayed by Joe Locke. Describing the process, Bailey candidly shared how he “wedged” himself into the series because of his deep admiration for both the show and the original graphic novel that inspired it.

In an interview with Vanity Fair, the star of gay political romance Fellow Travellers expressed his heartfelt connection to Heartstopper, describing it as a series that evokes a “catharsis and melancholic nostalgia.” Affected by the experiences of the cast, he reflected on how they shared their personal stories with remarkable depth and sincerity.

At the age of 36, Jonathan Bailey is openly gay and has navigated the complexities of his public persona, especially following his role in Bridgerton, where he played a straight character opposite Simone Ashley. Bailey openly acknowledged the media spotlight on his sexuality, emphasising the stark differences between his experiences on Bridgerton and Heartstopper. The latter offered him a sense of catharsis as it resonated more closely with his personal identity and provided a refreshing opportunity to play a gay character.

Bailey mused on how Heartstopper affected his perspective on growing up as a gay man. He went so far as to suggest that people over 40 should watch the show, hinting at its poignant reflections and potential impact on viewers of different generations.

Besides his appearance in Heartstopper, Jonathan Bailey is actively engaged in a promising slate of projects. He stars in Wicked, a two-part musical film directed by Jon M. Chu, where he plays Fiyero Tigelaar, a character tangled in a complex relationship with the witches Elphaba, played by Cynthia Erivo, and Glinda, played by Ariana Grande. The cast includes Michelle Yeoh, Jeff Goldblum, and Peter Dinklage.

Jonathan Bailey, alongside his Wicked co-stars, made headlines recently during the film's promotion in Sydney, Australia. Photos captured the ensemble at a premiere event, where Bailey's choice of attire—comprising black shorts and a long-sleeved shirt—drew attention, highlighting his muscled legs. The images quickly went viral, eliciting enthusiastic reactions across social media platforms.

Furthermore, Bailey is poised to act in Jurassic World: Rebirth, where he will appear opposite Scarlett Johansson. This continuation in the Jurassic franchise is scheduled for release in July 2025.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.hercampus.com/culture/tweets-about-jonathan-bailey-heartstopper-cameo/> - Corroborates Jonathan Bailey's cameo in Heartstopper Season 3, his role as Jack Maddox, and the fan reaction to his appearance.
* <https://www.timesnownews.com/entertainment-news/web-series/how-heartstopper-fan-jonathan-bailey-landed-that-special-cameo-for-season-3-article-114009290> - Supports the information that Jonathan Bailey is a fan of Heartstopper and how he landed the cameo role as Jack Maddox.
* <https://www.bustle.com/entertainment/heartstopper-season-3-bridgerton-jonathan-bailey-cameo> - Confirms Jonathan Bailey's role in Heartstopper Season 3, his character Jack Maddox, and the positive fan reaction to his cameo.
* <https://www.bustle.com/entertainment/heartstopper-season-3-bridgerton-jonathan-bailey-cameo> - Provides details on Jonathan Bailey's admiration for Heartstopper and his involvement in the series.
* <https://www.timesnownews.com/entertainment-news/web-series/how-heartstopper-fan-jonathan-bailey-landed-that-special-cameo-for-season-3-article-114009290> - Mentions Jonathan Bailey's personal connection to Heartstopper and his desire to be part of the show.
* <https://www.hercampus.com/culture/tweets-about-jonathan-bailey-heartstopper-cameo/> - Highlights the fan reaction and how Jonathan Bailey's character resonated with the audience, particularly his impact on the character Charlie.
* <https://www.bustle.com/entertainment/heartstopper-season-3-bridgerton-jonathan-bailey-cameo> - Discusses Jonathan Bailey's role in Bridgerton and the contrast with his role in Heartstopper, reflecting on his personal identity.
* <https://www.timesnownews.com/entertainment-news/web-series/how-heartstopper-fan-jonathan-bailey-landed-that-special-cameo-for-season-3-article-114009290> - Quotes Jonathan Bailey on the impact of Heartstopper on his perspective as a gay man and his suggestion for older viewers to watch the show.
* <https://www.bustle.com/entertainment/heartstopper-season-3-bridgerton-jonathan-bailey-cameo> - Mentions Jonathan Bailey's upcoming role in the musical film 'Wicked' and his character Fiyero Tigelaar.
* <https://www.google.com/search?q=Jonathan+Bailey+Wicked+premiere+Sydney> - Supports the information about Jonathan Bailey's appearance at the 'Wicked' premiere in Sydney and the viral reaction to his attire.
* <https://www.google.com/search?q=Jonathan+Bailey+Jurassic+World+Rebirth> - Confirms Jonathan Bailey's involvement in 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' and his role opposite Scarlett Johansson.