

= Anthony Moon =

Anthony Moon is a fictional character from the BBC soap opera EastEnders , played by Matt Lapinskas . He was introduced on 25 July 2011 as an extension to the Moon family . The son of Eddie Moon (David Essex) , half brother of Michael Moon (Steve John Shepherd) and brother of Tyler Moon (Tony Discipline) , his storylines have focused on the friendship between him and Tyler , and his relationships with Poppy Meadow (Rachel Bright) , Jodie Gold (Kylie Babbington) , Amira Masood (Preeya Kalidas) and Alice Branning (Jasmyn Banks) .

Anthony , along with brother Tyler , were announced as new characters in May 2011 , played by Lapinskas and Discipline respectively , although Tyler made his debut at an earlier date . Described as someone who " will rely on his brains and natural wit to find a more sensitive solution to any conflict " , it is found out that Anthony has a gambling problem before his character arrived in Walford , which is later a focus of one of the storylines . Lapinskas said of his relationship with half @-@ brother Michael that Anthony " idolises " him , and that Michael " corrupted " Anthony . When Eddie leaves , Anthony takes charge of his antiques business . Executive producer Bryan Kirkwood said that the Moon brothers would bring a new element to the show . Inside Soap held a poll to see which of the new Moon family members , Eddie , Tyler or Anthony , its readers were most looking forward to seeing ; Anthony came third with 12 per cent of the vote . Lapinskas quit the show in May 2012 . He left EastEnders on 30 August 2012 .

= = Storylines = =

Anthony first appears when he poses as a member of the Walford council to help Eddie eject a squatter from a premises that they want to move their antiques business into . He then decides to remain in Walford and helps his father set up the business . Anthony buys some candlesticks from Cora Cross (Ann Mitchell) , though she does not know their true value , but when Cora finds out their true value , she accuses Anthony of scamming her . Eddie sells the candlesticks for £ 8000 , and when Tyler decides to take part in an unlicensed boxing match , Michael convinces Anthony that Tyler will win and that it would be a good idea to place a bet on him , knowing that Anthony suffers with a gambling addiction . Anthony steals £ 8000 from Eddie 's safe , but bets on Tyler 's opponent Artie Stiller (Maurice Lee) , which leaves Michael unimpressed , as he has researched Artie and found out he is tough . During the fight , however , Tyler narrowly wins so Anthony has to confess to Eddie that he has lost the money . Shortly after he does , Tyler collapses and has a seizure , so is rushed to hospital . Eddie is sickened by Anthony 's actions and tells him he wishes he was dying in a hospital bed , rather than Tyler . Distraught , Anthony storms out and attends a party run by Mandy Salter (Nicola Stapleton) , culminating in him kissing her . Afterwards , Anthony returns to the hospital to learn that Tyler has been taken for a life @-@ saving operation and is furious that Eddie was not around . Eddie then admits that his children would be better off without him . Tyler survives and recovers , but the brothers are told by Eddie that Michael set up an unfair fight to punish the family , leading Tyler and Anthony to reject Michael . Eddie then leaves Walford , leaving Tyler and Anthony the antiques business .

When Jodie Gold (Kylie Babbington) and Poppy Meadow (Rachel Bright) become homeless , Anthony asks them to move in with him and Tyler . The girls move in , and it soon emerges that Poppy is attracted to Anthony . He prefers Jodie though , but nevertheless asks Poppy out on a date . After he and Jodie talk , Anthony suddenly kisses her , but she pulls away immediately . Jodie later reveals she is moving out and later confesses that she and Anthony kissed , which greatly upsets Poppy . Jodie and Poppy reconcile and decide to move away from Walford which upsets Anthony . Anthony takes a romantic interest to Amira Masood (Preeya Kalidas) when she kisses him , however Anthony becomes frustrated when she pays more attention to her soon to be ex @-@ husband Syed (Marc Elliott) , who she is trying to win back . Amira later invites Anthony for a meal at her family 's home , but it is awkward .

When Derek Branning (Jamie Foreman) demands £ 4000 for some goods he asked Anthony and Tyler to sell , Anthony says he only has £ 3000 as he needed to pay some bills . He agrees to sell a

necklace to get some of the money , but instead , he gives it to Amira . He then gambles the rest but loses it . Derek then asks Anthony and Tyler to either pay up or steal cable from the railway , otherwise he will break their legs . Anthony goes to Michael for financial help but Michael locks Anthony in his office and calls the police , who arrest Derek and Patrick Trueman (Rudolph Walker) , who offered to help the brothers . They are released without charge , but Derek then accuses Anthony and Tyler of calling the police , and increases their debt to £ 8000 . They realise Michael called the police and confront him , and his partner Janine Butcher (Charlie Brooks) discovers what is going on . She pays off the debt , but Michael takes a beating from Derek .

Amira and Anthony 's relationship continues and after having a small argument with Christian Clarke (John Partridge) , Amira goes over to Anthony 's house and the pair end up having sex for the first time . However , she later cries afterwards and appears to regret it . She tells him it felt wrong , but it is not his fault . She then decides to leave Walford without telling him . Anthony later learns that Amira has left after Syed tells him . When Alice Branning (Jasmyn Banks) takes a liking to Anthony , her father Derek forces Anthony to take her out . Anthony is not interested in Alice , but is scared of Derek so cannot refuse . They have a couple of dates , but they go badly . Several weeks later , Alice receives flowers and assumes they are from Anthony . Anthony is then forced to take her out again , as he does not want to upset her . However , he tries to put her off by behaving and dressing badly . Later , during a game of spin the bottle , Anthony and Alice kiss , and he then decides that he really does like her and invites her on a proper date . Alice decides she is ready to lose her virginity to Anthony , although he does not pressure her . Her brother Joey (David Witts) overhears and manipulates Anthony into playing poker with Derek . Anthony cannot resist due to his gambling addiction and ends up losing the emporium . Both Derek and Joey tell him to leave and Alice is left stood up . Joey tells her Derek drove Anthony away , so she rushes to the emporium to find Anthony , but is too late as he leaves Walford via the tube station .

= = Other appearances = =

Anthony appears in the third series of the spin @-@ off series EastEnders : E20 . In episode 8 , he is supervising Faith Olubunmi (Modupe Adeyeye) , Ava Bourne (Sophie Colquhoun) and Donnie Lester (Samuel Benta) while they do community service in The Queen Victoria . Anthony jokes that Ava and Donnie are a couple , which leads to Donnie attempting to attack Anthony . Phil Mitchell (Steve McFadden) says it makes a change for someone to show the ladies some respect . He starts to chat Ava up but Donnie interferes once again and Anthony simply ignores him .

= = Introduction , casting and characterisation = =

The character was announced on 10 May 2011 , as an extension to the Moon family , with the part being cast to Matt Lapinskas . The character was announced at the same time as Anthony 's brother Tyler , which was to be played by Tony Discipline . Lapinskas said he was over the moon over his casting and said it 's good that he will be appearing on a show that he has been a lifelong fan of . He also added that the cast and crew are very welcoming . Executive producer Bryan Kirkwood said that Lapinskas and Discipline are great additions to the show and that along with Eddie , they could become an established family on the Square . Tyler and Anthony were suspected to be " a couple of likely lads who are more than likely to cause a stir in Albert Square . " Anthony first appears on 25 July 2011 . Lapinskas appears as Anthony in EastEnders E20 before starting in EastEnders , saying that it " broke him in " . In February 2012 , Lapinskas said to Daniel Kilkelly from Digital Spy that he was " really enjoying " EastEnders and that it is " a real learning curve " .

In an interview with Inside Soap , Kirkwood said that Anthony and Tyler would bring a new element to EastEnders , " There 's been no shortage of brilliant and sexy women in EastEnders over the past few years and it was about time there were some blokes to join them . Tony and Matt are great actors , and the fact that they 're easy on the eye is a great advantage " . " What the brothers bring is romance and fun , because that 's something we 've been a little short @-@ changed on in EastEnders recently . The Moons are a very interesting family to work with ? they 're all big

characters . It 's a great new era for that clan " . Kirkwood added that " there is more to the pair than meets the eye " saying that there " are a couple of buried secrets between Eddie and his sons " confirming it will be " a big story for the summer " . He finished , " there 'll be consequences for all concerned " . Kirkwood later added , " What I hope we 've created in Tyler and Anthony are blokes you might see in the pub on a Friday night with an appetite for life ? and for women . "

When Anthony was introduced , it was revealed that he was a gambling addict . Of this , Lapinskas said , " it 's a great thing that our executive producer Bryan Kirkwood and the EastEnders team came up with for Anthony ? that he does have this gambling problem and various insecurities connected with it . It adds some more depth to the character and it 's brilliant when we can explore that . With every topic and every storyline that crops up , I think Anthony 's background will always have an effect and impact on it . That 's really nice to play . "

Anthony is described as someone who " will rely on his brains and natural wit to find a more sensitive solution to any conflict " and " calm " by Digital Spy and the BBC . Tyler and Anthony were described as " heart @-@ throbs " and " ladykillers " , with the official EastEnders website adding that Anthony is a " well groomed & reliable young lad " . Anthony and Tyler 's different personalities are teased in the promotional video , which sees them recalling a prank Tyler played on his older brother before he mocks Anthony 's inability to speak to " gorgeous " girls " .

= = Development = =

= = = Notable relationships = = =

= = = = Eddie and Michael = = = =

Anthony 's relationship with father Eddie was not as good as Tyler 's relationship with Eddie , Lapinskas told Digital Spy of this , " [Anthony] wants to show his dad that he 's the man to take over the [family] business . For Anthony , his main interest is the antiques emporium ? forget the girls ! " . Of his relationship with his half brother Michael (Steve John Shepherd) , he said that Michael " corrupted " Anthony explaining , " Anthony just idolises him , the fact of the matter is that Michael has his own business and has all this money coming in , without having to worry about all the family politics , so Anthony 's in awe of that " .

= = = = Jodie Gold and Poppy Meadow = = = =

Lapinskas previously had teased that Anthony would get a love interest and in November 2011 , Anthony started dating Poppy Meadow (Rachel Bright) . Lapinskas deemed his character " pleased that somebody likes him " , and said that while he was also interested in Jodie Gold (Kylie Babbington) , he was put " on the spot " by Poppy and so did what he thought was expected of him in asking her out . He and Jodie later kissed ; Lapinskas revealed that Jodie would be angry with herself for betraying Poppy and decide to leave London . An Inside Soap writer predicted that Anthony had landed himself in a big mess , and that he was " playing with fire " by kissing both Poppy and Jodie . A source told RTÉ , " [Jodie] and Poppy have never let a man come between them . Poppy may have something to say to Jodie when she finds out they have kissed . "

= = = = Amira Masood = = = =

In January 2012 , Anthony takes an interest to Amira Masood (Preeya Kalidas) , Amira states in EastEnders to Zainab Masood (Nina Wadia) that Anthony ' brightens up her life by treating her like a princess ' . Speaking of his relationship with Amira , Lapinskas told Digital Spy , " From the very first time Anthony saw Amira at the pub , he said she was a goddess . Since then , he 's been helping her out a bit , and she 's warming to him . You never know what could happen ? watch this

space . It could turn into something beautiful ! He added , " I think at first she might have wanted to use him to make Syed (Marc Elliot) jealous , but over a period of time , she might start warming to him . He is genuinely a nice guy and quite charming , so she could fall for him " .

= = = = Derek Branning = = = =

In February 2012 , Anthony and Tyler get involved with criminal Derek Branning (Jamie Foreman) . Of this storyline Lapinskas said , " I loved the challenge . Every time you get a big storyline and lots of scripts , it 's fantastic ? there 's lots to sink your teeth into . Myself , Jamie and Tony Discipline sat down and spoke about the scenes beforehand , discussing how we were going to perform them . It 's like taking on a new project , so every time I get a new storyline , I 'm hands @-@ on and ready to go for it . " On the scenes involving Anthony , Tyler and Derek , Lapinskas said , " I think it was definitely a shock for them to see his true colours ! Anthony was really worried as he didn 't want them to get into trouble , so as we saw , he was trying his best to get them out of it . But even though they were scared of Derek , Anthony and Tyler are brothers and they 've got each other 's backs , so it was nice that we saw them standing up to Derek in some of the scenes . "

= = = Departure = = =

On 9 May 2012 , Daniel Kilkelly of Digital Spy reported Lapinskas would be leaving EastEnders . His character departed 30 August 2012 . Of his exit , Lapinskas said " I 'm having a fantastic time working on EastEnders and playing the role of Anthony Moon . Working with David Essex , Tony Discipline and the EastEnders cast has been an absolute pleasure . Although I will really miss EastEnders and everyone involved , I am very excited about future projects and what is next for me as an actor . " Lapinskas revealed that Anthony 's exit plot sees him make a " big mistake " . Anthony realises how much he loves Alice Branning (Jasmyn Banks) but is unsure how to deal with her brother and father Joey (David Witts) and Derek Branning (Jamie Foreman) respectively . Speaking to Soap Life , Lapinskas said " Joey manipulates Anthony into challenging Derek , which is a big mistake . I can 't give too much away , but I can tell you that after going up against Derek , Anthony has no choice but to leave the Square . " Magazine reports claim that Anthony packs his bags after losing everything to Joey and Derek , revising his gambling problem . Lapinskas hopes that Anthony will return someday . In an interview with Inside Soap , Lapinskas said that EastEnders was his first job outside of drama school and added that he has learnt a lot from the people he worked with . He also added " I was quite disappointed when I found out Anthony would be leaving , I 'd have liked to do a lot more stuff with him . It 's a shame to not be a part of what 's coming up . "

= = Reception = =

Inside Soap held a poll to see which of the new Moon family members , Eddie , Tyler or Anthony , its readers were most looking forward to seeing . Anthony came last with 12 % of the vote . During an Inside Soap feature on the Moon brothers vs the Mitchell brothers , Kate Woodward said " Two sexy brothers to shake up Albert Square ? That sounds familiar ! But are Anthony and Tyler really the new Grant and Phil Mitchell ? " Lapinskas commented on this , saying " It 's a lot of pressure to put us both under , but what a duo to be compared to ! ... Phil and Grant were in the show together for at least 10 years , and they were fantastic ? so to be linked to them is phenomenal . It really is a lot to live up to , but Tony and I are hoping to come in with our own energy and bring something completely new to EastEnders . Rachel Tarley from the Metro said " it 's nice to have a bit of fresh blood in the soap , especially since the appearance of another one of his siblings always seems to leave Michael a little more demented than he was before . Lapinskas revealed to the Daily Mirror that because of his role in EastEnders , he is recognised in public , calling the experience " surreal " . Cecile Metcalf of the Daily Mail branded Anthony " the loveable rogue of the square , with a cheeky answer for everything " .