

= Ben Thompson (actor) =

Ben Thompson (born 1 June 1992) is an English actor best known for his role as Ryan Connor in the British soap opera Coronation Street . Brought up in Radcliffe , Greater Manchester , Thompson made his screen debut when he appeared in the 2002 film *Re @-@ Inventing Eddie* . Shortly before turning 13 , he appeared in the 2004 CBBC children 's comedy programme *Stupid !* .

Thompson rose to further prominence when he was cast as teenager Ryan Connor in Coronation Street in 2006 . As part of the longstanding series , he has been involved in storylines that have dealt with varying topics , including family life , death and coming of age . In addition to his career as an actor , Thompson is also an amateur musician . He is a member of the Rusholme Ruffians , an indie group who are largely influenced by established Manchester bands .

= = Youth and early career = =

Ben Thompson was brought up in Radcliffe , a town within the Metropolitan Borough of Bury , in Greater Manchester , England . He trained in acting from the age of eight at the Carol Godby Theatre Workshop in Bury . For five years , Thompson was educated at nearby Radcliffe Riverside High School . He later reflected that he enjoyed his time at school , interacted well with his teachers and " never went into one lesson where there wasn 't [something] interesting to do " .

In 2002 , Thompson starred alongside John Lynch , Geraldine Somerville , Lauren Cook and John Thomson in the Jim Doyle @-@ directed film *Re @-@ Inventing Eddie* . The movie is about a man named Eddie (Lynch) , who is hounded by social services and branded a paedophile after an innocent bathtime game with his children is taken out of context . About two years later and shortly before entering teenagehood , Thompson successfully auditioned to feature in the BBC children 's comedy programme *Stupid !* . Out of around 400 hopeful youngsters , he was one of only a few to be selected to appear in the show . Prior to *Stupid !* ' s launch on the CBBC channel in 2004 , Thompson commented , " When I first started going to auditions I was quite nervous but now I just get on with it . I go to quite a few and it gets easier . "

= = Coronation Street = =

Thompson auditioned in 2006 for the role of Cameron McIntyre in the long @-@ standing British soap opera Coronation Street . The part would have had him be on @-@ screen friends with Chesney Brown , played by Sam Aston , who Thompson already knew from the Carol Godby Theatre Workshop . Producers for Coronation Street , however , were so impressed by Thompson that they asked him to audition for a different role . His try @-@ out was successful and he was given a six @-@ month contract , along with the option to extend it for up to a year . He was cast as Ryan Connor , a boy who moves to Weatherfield ? the fictional Greater Manchester setting of Coronation Street ? with his mother , Michelle (played by actress and former Hear 'Say band member Kym Marsh) , and her brothers , Liam (Rob James @-@ Collier) and Paul (Sean Gallagher) . The Bolton News reported that Thompson would spend between one and two days in front of the camera , and that he would be given an on @-@ set tutor to help complete his school work .

On his first day of filming , in July 2006 , Thompson ? who grew up watching Coronation Street ? was starstruck . " [It] was the strangest day of my life because I was in a room with all these famous people . " He added : " It was completely different to how I imagined it would be . Everyone 's been really nice to me and it 's going well . " Prior to the airing of the Connor family 's arrival on the famous cobblestone street in August 2006 , Thompson commented , " I can 't say too much about Ryan and the story lines , but he 's very mischievous . The character is not a bad lad , but he 's not a good lad either . " Garth Philips , series producer , said at the time , " We held extensive casting sessions to get this family right , and the energy that Sean , Rob , Kym and Ben have will certainly make them a joy to watch on screen . " He continued , " They 're a twenty @-@ first century Coronation Street family , and we hope our viewers will be as enthralled and excited by

them as we are . "

Within his first year on Coronation Street , Thompson had acted out scenes that involved his character stealing a car , graffitiing the wall of the local newsagents , and discovering that his mother 's fiancée was having a gay affair with her male best friend . Still impressed with Thompson 's acting ability , producers of the series had his contract extended to 2009 . Reflecting on his first year in the soap , Thompson said : " It 's been a really strange year and a lot of things have happened . It 's been absolutely brilliant . The filming is everything that I could have wanted it to be . It 's fantastic and I enjoy it more than anything . " He added : " My favourite story lines so far have been doing the graffiti and stealing the car . I really enjoyed filming those two . "

In 2009 , opposite Sacha Parkinson , who plays Sian Powers , Thompson filmed his first screen kiss . He said of the experience , " It was bizarre because Sacha had done one before and I hadn 't . I knew the line I had to say and then kiss her . I knew it every time , and every time I said it I was shaking . " He continued , " Oh it was dreadful . I mean I don 't get nervous when I go on stage or anything like that , but it was just bizarre . It was one of those things that I got really nervous about . " The on @-@ screen romance was part of a controversial New Year 's Eve storyline which featured the two characters attempting to see in 2010 by losing their virginities , only to be discovered by Ryan 's adoptive mother Michelle . In May 2012 , it was confirmed that Ryan would be recast and played by Sol Heras , because Thompson chose not to return .

= = Private life and interests = =

Thompson has a keen interest in music and has played the guitar for several years . He often takes the instrument to work with him , as a means of occupying himself during takes . The actor is part of a group : the Rusholme Ruffians , formed by himself and two of his fellow schoolmates while they were still at Radcliffe Riverside High . The Rusholme Ruffians have performed at venues throughout the UK and the band 's set list includes their own material , as well as songs by home @-@ town influences such as Morrissey , The Smiths , Oasis , James and The Stone Roses . Thompson has expressed an interest in getting into the music industry later in life . He attended Holy Cross College in Bury , which he left after a year due to filming commitments .

Ben studied at SSR (School of Sound Recording) in Manchester and went on to work at Blueprint Studios in Salford .

= = Filmography = =