



Cover story

I CAN'T WAIT TO M.C. MY FIRST GIG. I'M READY FOR THE LIMELIGHT- AND I KNOW THAT...



DAD WOULD

Cover story

SHE may be small in stature (a dinky five foot) but Lottie Ryan's presence commands the height of attention when she walks into the room. We're at Dublin's Howl at the Moon for a photoshoot, and when the pint-sized stunner makes her appearance, all eyes are on her, taking in her sultry beauty.

Lottie's just come from a morning of rehearsals in a Dublin city dance studio and is still buzzing with adrenalin.

Beaming broadly, the daughter of tragic radio legend, Gerry, casually browses through the rails of Warehouse clothes that the stylist has laid out for our shoot, and is happy to try anything on.

Even the stuff she is initially not impressed by she mixes and matches with other items to make it work. Lottie's down to earth and adaptable, unlike a lot of the stars we've have come across. This is a woman with no airs and graces whatsoever.

Not only that, but I mistakenly



has - but only as a bit-part player in her famous family's media coverage. Now though, the 24-year-old is a star in her own right, and is about to MC Ireland's first ever Leaving Cert Festival, Dublin's Summer Blowout.

"This is the biggest thing I've done to date, but I definitely think I'm ready," she reveals after the shoot has wrapped.

"Growing up with my dad has given me the kind of background that most 24-year olds won't have had. I went to loads of shows, festivals and gigs and met a lot of celebrities, so I've in some ways had an insight into their lives from a very early age.

"I always knew I'd be performing in one form or another, and mum and dad were always supportive of whatever I thought I wanted to do." She adds: "I definitely think he [Gerry] would be proud of me up there on stage in front of 10,000 people. I had discussed the gig with him and he was full on for it, so I'm really excited now.

"It is aimed at Leaving Cert students who've just got their results, so it'll be buzzing. I want to take it all in and enjoy it. I can't wait to meet Alexandra Burke and Razorlight who will be performing, but I have to try and not be star-struck in front of them. I am the MC after all," she says, bursting with pride.

Burke and Razorlight will be joined by Alex Gaudino, Hip Hop act NDUBZ, former boyband member Lee Ryan, Skins TV stars Katie and Thomas and up-and-coming Irish acts, Ruth Anne Cunningham, Eoin Glackin and Fitzafrenic for the all-day festival at Donnybrook Stadium on August 18.

Growing up with Gerry and Morah as parents gave Lottie "the perfect upbringing." But like in any household that has five kids with a 15-year gap from the eldest to the youngest, the Ryan home was "a mad house".

"Well, what would you expect with five of us growing up? Especially in the morning. You have to remember that the →

In her most in-depth and revealing interview yet, Lottie Ryan tells DARAGH KEANY about her plans for a showbiz future, just like her father



thought the untimely end of her beloved dad's life in April would still be weighing down on her - but when we finally got the chance to do a fashion shoot with the mega-star-to-be, *SWM* discovers that this is a strong-willed, confident and stunning woman.

Pose after pose, Lottie looks as if she's been in front of the cameras all her life.

To a certain extent, she

SHE'S A NATURAL: Lottie has learned to work the camera and gives it her all for our photoshoot

Pictures by ERNIE LESLIE

BE PROUD

Cover story



THE HOUSE OF FUN: The Ryan household was filled with laughter

ages of the five of us go from me at 24 down to 10. And those age groups in the middle are not the smoothest," she says.

"Plus, we have boys and girls so there's a mix going on. One minute we're all the best of friends, the next we're enemies. I guess it's a typical big family."

So, as the eldest, is Lottie the most responsible?

"I'm too responsible. That's the problem. I'm the typical eldest sibling, I'm very protective."

A true sign that the all-singing and all-dancing rising star is on the right road to fame and success is that she is being looked after by PR whiz, Joanne Byrne.

Ireland's answer to Max Clifford has long been associated with the Ryan family, but in the tough cut-throat world of celebrity representation, Joanne's time is precious. With Westlife, Amy Huberman, Brian O'Driscoll, Kathryn Thomas and Lucy Kennedy on her books, she is working 24/7 already. But in Lottie, the PR guru has one of the stars of the future.

"My parents are cool about whatever I want to do in life. They always told me if I'm happy getting up in the morning doing what I'm doing then it's OK with them. And I wake up every morning right now feeling amazing doing what I'm doing and where I'm going in life."

"I have a few TV pilots coming up that we hope will be commissioned. The world of TV is a very different place to where it was a couple of years ago during the Celtic Tiger. But I'm planning on keeping it going and hopefully carving out a career in it," she says.

But would Lottie follow in her dad's footsteps onto RTE's airwaves too?

"Those shoes are too big to fill, so no. The stamp has been put on that," she says.

As today's shoot is all about the fashion, before she heads off to yet another movie premiere, *SWM* had to ask the fashionista about her favourite styles and shops. But as the topic is raised, her agent Joanne Byrne is quick to point out that Lottie has a problem: a shopping addiction.

"It's true. I actually have a bit of a problem. I love fashion so much but I have to admit I am definitely a shopaholic. It's a weakness. But I am very good at it," she grins.

"I shop online all the time. It's just too easy. It's a click away and three or four days later it's at my door. And if it doesn't work for me I send it back. It's too easy. I have it down to a T."

"My wardrobe at home is bursting with clothes, and I still have stuff from six years ago that I can't bear to throw away just in case I get one last chance to wear them again. That's how

'Follow dad into RTE? No, those shoes are too big to fill. The stamp has been put on that'

my mind works. That one item could come back in.

"I've had some bad fashion moments through the years. There's a pic of me in a belly-top that keeps popping up. I went through weird fazes."

"I went through the belly-top faze, my too-short skirts faze, my luminous lipstick faze. My mum used to let us raid her closet and never dressed us herself. We were always allowed pick our own clothes so I got all the bad stuff out of my system early on, before it got to the stage where it'd become just downright embarrassing." ●



★ Tickets for Summer Blowout 2010 on August 18 cost €49.50 at www.ticketmaster.ie or www.summerblowout.ie

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HELP'S WITHIN REACH

★ **SUMMER Blowout 2010** is supported by the new online support service **ReachOut.com**. Following their slamming debut of activity in this year's summer calendar of festival events (including Kings of Concrete and Oxegen) **ReachOut.com** is continuing to grow, promoting positive mental health in young people.

According to the website: "Emotions run high at times like results night. The key thing is for people to celebrate together and to look out for each other during celebrations."

★ "Results night is also a celebration of a new phase, a new time in life. Make sure to look after yourself as you enter this exciting time of transition and change. And if you've got something on your mind, visit **ReachOut.com**."

STUDENT CAUSE: Lottie promotes **Reachout.com**



● Photoshoot location was **Howl at the Moon** (off Merrion Square in Dublin). Tel: 01 6345 460. www.howlatthemoon.ie
Open late Thursday to Saturday, No cover charge on Thursdays & Fridays. Free in until 11.30pm on Saturdays. FREE BBQ for Group Bookings of 10 or more on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6pm.



