



# Lottie Ryan

WHEN SHE was announced last month as the new face of afternoon radio on 2FM, it seemed that Lottie Ryan was living proof of the tenet that persistence pays off – or if you hang around somewhere long enough, you’ll finally get your moment in the sun.

Gerry Ryan’s eldest child has been knocking about the 2FM building since 2011, a year after he died, and it looked like she was finally getting a chance to shine. When RTÉ rushed out an announcement that Lottie and the barely known David O’Reilly were taking over the 2 Johnnies’ drivetime slot for the summer, it said that it was “strengthening up” its schedule with “2FM home-grown talent Lottie and David”.

The announcement was a feel-good moment for the station in the midst of the deep embarrassment of Doireann Garrihy, Jennifer Zamparelli and the 2 Johnnies announcing their departures in the space of a week, presumably to make more money elsewhere. It also generated pleasing ‘Ryan Line open again’ headlines and newspaper front pages.

Alas for poor Lottie, it appears that her moment is already over, with the *Irish Sun* reporting that she and O’Reilly will shortly be replaced in the afternoon slot by TikTok lip-sync star Kayleigh Trappe.

The writing was on the wall when 2FM’s head of radio, Dan Healy, told Radio One presenter Claire Byrne that he had a new “influencer” he was interested in signing up. In fairness, Lottie being chosen to replace the 2 Johnnies was definitely not on most people’s bingo cards. While the bogger version of Ant and Dec’s “blokey swagger”, as the *Irish Times* snootily described it, were Marmite – a bit like Gerry himself – they were the biggest stars in the beleaguered 2FM firmament, attracting 151,000 listeners daily. Therefore, anyone tasked with filling their shoes would face an uphill battle. While Lottie is likeable and personable, she hasn’t shown any of her father’s ability to provoke and stir debate.

Trappe is a puzzling choice to take the hot seat, however, as her output to date has been limited to lip-syncing videos on social media. While entertaining if that is your kind of thing, it’s a skill that will not particularly serve her well on live radio.

To add to the sense that the ship is rapidly sinking, Doireann’s co-host, former rugby star Donncha O’Callaghan, is now also throwing in the towel. Ouch!

There is a growing sense that Lottie has been unfairly treated and was used to paper over a crack that opens into a much deeper fissure. The 38-year-old has hung in there, worked hard and, most of all, shown great loyalty to the station for the past 13 years, maintaining a dignified silence under pressure. Alas, she has found it hard to shake the ‘nepo baby’ tag that has followed her since she debuted as a showbusiness reporter on *The Daily Show* on RTÉ One.

Lottie told *Woman’s Way* it was unfortunate that young people in the entertainment industry are criticised for following the family path. “Listen, doors are certainly opened a little more easily, but I can tell you that the work that goes into having to walk through them and the expectations and the wanting of people for you to fall on your arse are very high,” she said.

Lottie began working as an entertainment

dancers.

Although she had previously told two newspapers that she trained as a dancer in New York and was teaching hip hop classes at the Young Performers Academy in Dublin, she told *Tubs* – in an interview on RTÉ Radio 1 ahead of the launch of the show – that she was “really looking forward to being out of my comfort zone and doing something that I just have no clue about. It is learning something new.”

Recollections may vary, of course, and happily for such an ‘amateur’, Lottie’s dance skills turned out to be excellent and she won the show. But she took umbrage when it was suggested that her dance background gave her an advantage.

“Training as a dancer in NYC is definitely an exaggeration,” she told the understandably puzzled *Irish Sun*. “I took a few drop-in classes while on holiday with my family one year many moons ago.”

Lottie has an Italian husband, Fabio Aprile, whose family own a chipper in Ballyfermot. They have a three-year-old son, Wolf, and in 2023 Lottie began a parenting podcast with her erstwhile 2FM colleague and friend, Zamparelli. It ran for two seasons but has yet to return in 2024.

Lottie is considered to be a bit of an influencer herself, having enjoyed a gifted stay at Castle Leslie, as well as doing paid social media promotions with brands such as Just Eat, Dove, the VHI Women’s Mini Marathon, and Sims IVF with the Rotunda.

In 2020, as brand ambassador for Toyota, she took the keys of a shiny new Toyota Yaris. She declared that she “couldn’t be happier” with her Toyota Long Mile partnership as it “just could not be a better fit.”

Alas, Lottie was contacted by management at RTÉ last year after she filmed a promo on its campus – with the *Fair City* set and an RTÉ logo in the background – for a different Toyota car. This occurred a day after the hidden payments scandal was revealed and which caused so much trouble for the broadcaster. A spokesperson for the organisation told the *Indo*: “Permission was not given by RTÉ to Lottie Ryan for the filming or for the post in question.”

Days later, Lottie announced that she was no longer represented by NK Management and they had “respectfully parted ways”.

Sadly for Lottie, now that she and the afternoon slot are also parting ways, it looks like it’s back to producing 2FM’s hourly entertainment news bulletins for her. The bottom line appears to be that Ryan’s Daughter may never have star billing on the RTÉ schedule.



Lottie Ryan

correspondent on 2FM’s *The Colm Hayes Show* in 2011 and Healy bestowed her with *The Early Early Breakfast Show* at the weekend between 6-7am in 2014. Sadly it wasn’t exactly a shining light in the 2FM schedule – by 2015, the JNLRs showed that a mere 2,000 people were tuning in on Saturday and 4,000 on Sunday.

The show was quietly axed in 2017 and Lottie moved to the same slot on weekdays for the next two years as part of the *Breakfast Republic* offering, in addition to presenting news bulletins on other shows. This went considerably better for her and she was very much part of the team there.

In 2019, Lottie’s early slot was dropped altogether as Garrihy, the new golden girl of 2FM, was ushered into the building. To add insult to injury, Garrihy was chosen to co-host *Dancing with the Stars* with Jennifer Zamparelli, a gig that Lottie really wanted. As a consolation prize, she was made host of the *Dancing with the Stars* podcast.

Ryan actually won the hoofing show in 2020, but the win was deemed controversial as the “stars” are meant to be rank amateurs who are taught to dance by the show’s professional