

# BEN HARDY



## Ben Hardy by Roberto Patella

Abito dal taglio asimmetrico e maglia lineare: tutto Dior. Styling, Fabio Immediato.



Prima gli X-Men. Ora *Bohemian Rhapsody*. In comune, un regista e una passione. Quella di Ben Hardy, pseudonimo dell'attore e modello britannico Ben Jones, per la musica e il grande schermo. Alla fine dello scorso anno è infatti balzato agli onori delle cronache per aver interpretato Roger Taylor, iconico batterista dei Queen, nel film biopic sul gruppo rock di Bryan Singer. Coronamento di un percorso iniziato frequentando la Gryphon School di Sherborne. La sua carriera di attore inizia nel 2012, partecipando all'opera teatrale scritta da David Hare *The Judas Kiss*, nel ruolo di Arthur Wellesley, membro del personale di un hotel. All'Hampstead Theatre di Londra inizia così un viaggio che lo porterà in tour per tutto il Regno Unito. Ha interpretato Warren Worthington III nel film del 2016 *X-Men - Apocalisse*, sempre



T-shirt, AMI Alexandre Mattiussi; pantaloni, Bally; cintura, Dolce&Gabbana. Grooming, Nathalie Eleni.



Maglia con logo, pullover e pantalone: tutto Prada. Stylist assistant, Tiziano Viticchie; Photo assistant, Oscar Eckel. Production, Werther Milano.



diretto da Singer. «Avevo già lavorato con Bryan all'epoca di *X-Men*, così, quando ho saputo che era coinvolto nella realizzazione di *Bohemian Rhapsody*, gli ho inviato un'email nella quale gli chiedevo: "Posso partecipare?". Solo che Bryan aveva delle riserve su di me, gli serviva un attore che sapesse suonare per davvero la batteria. Nelle riprese ravvicinate è facile ingannare lo spettatore, ma nei campi lunghi si nota subito se uno strumento viene suonato fuori sincrono. Così gli ho scritto che non c'era alcun problema perché io la batteria sapevo suonarla. Solo che non era vero! Ne ho comprata una, ho ingaggiato un insegnante e ho lavorato per dieci ore al giorno. Volevo che il lavoro fosse fatto bene. Chi non desidera interpretare una rockstar al cinema?».

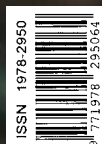
Angelo Ruggeri



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## BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY **BEN HARDY**

BY MITCHELL NGUYEN MCCORMACK

CAMERON CUFFE - GREY DAMON - ARIO BAYU - MENTARI DE MARELLE



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Ben Hardy tells us  
what's it like to play  
a legendary musician  
in the upcoming  
box office hit  
“Bohemian Rhapsody”

PHOTOGRAPHY MITCHELL NGUYEN McCORMACK  
STYLING TY HEADLEE

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Outfit by Tommy Hilfiger



Outfit by Michael Kors



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rums can be quite tricky to portray in movies. With other instruments,

the movie can “cheat” a bit, mainly through clever camera angles. But it’s all too easy for viewers to notice when the drummer—or rather, the actor playing the drummer—is off by even a single beat. So, the pressure was definitely on for English actor Ben Hardy, who was selected to play Roger Taylor, drummer for legendary rock band Queen, in the long awaited biopic “Bohemian Rhapsody,” which covers the rise of the band up to the famous Live Aid concert of 1985.

Of course, Hardy is no stranger to challenging roles or undergoing special training in preparation for a role. Back in 2015, for instance, when he was cast as the winged mutant Angel in “X-Men: Apocalypse,” he took up indoor skydiving to get a better appreciation of how the human body would look like in flight.

Other than that, Hardy can also count being a series regular of “EastEnders” and joining the all-star cast of “Only the Brave” among his accomplishments. That being said, it’s probably safe to assume that his appearance in “Bohemian Rhapsody” will be the one to rock audiences all around the world for years to come.

**DAMAN:** Hi, Ben. Awesome to have you with us. How are you?

**Ben Hardy:** I’m good, thanks. Happy to be here.

**DA:** So, obviously, we’re looking forward to see you in “Bohemian Rhapsody” this November. Personally, what do you see as the best part of the movie?

**BH:** The best part? That’s a tricky one. Push comes to shove, I’d say the Live Aid performance in 1985 may be one of the strongest parts of the movie.

**DA:** By the way, can you also tell us how you were initially cast as Roger Taylor?

**BH:** Yeah, sure. I actually really chased this one. I’d worked with director Bryan Singer before on “X-Men: Apocalypse” and when I heard he was going to be directing “Bohemian Rhapsody” I reached out to him to see if he’d consider me for Roger Taylor. He was open to the idea but had reservations based on the fact he wanted the actor playing Rog to be able to play the drums. I wanted the part so bad I told him I could play. He asked me to put a song in video so he could see. I panicked, went away and bought the cheapest drum kit I could find and a local instructor to help me learn the song. Sent the video to Bryan. And a couple of auditions later and yeah, here we are.

**DA:** We’ve also heard that you had to take an intense crash course in drumming to secure the role. How did you manage to pull it off?

**BH:** Obviously, I could never be as skilled a drummer as Roger Taylor in the limited timeframe we had, and most likely could never be as good as him! But I wanted to do my best to pay tribute to the man’s talent. So, basically I just spent all day, every day locked away with my drum kit practicing over and over. I also had a great instructor in Brett Morgan. There’s no way I could have learnt to play so quickly without his help.

**DA:** On that note, what else did you have to do, train in or learn in a hurry in order to portray Queen’s legendary drummer?

**BH:** Ah, man, I just spent days on YouTube watching videos of him to learn as many of the characteristics, mannerisms, vocal qualities and idiosyncrasies I could find. I didn’t want to be doing an impression of Rog in this film but I wanted to give as much of an essence of him as I could.

**DA:** And we also have to ask: What was it like playing as Roger Taylor while the man was also on board as producer?

**BH:** Initially, I was sh-t scared to meet Roger and for him to be on set and see my portrayal of him. But he was so supportive from the outset that it was really great to have him around. And learn as much as I could from him on all things Roger.

**DA:** What was the biggest challenge you faced while working on “Bohemian Rhapsody”?

“IF YOU CAN’T BE HAPPY WITH YOUR CURRENT SITUATION YOU PROBABLY WON’T BE HAPPY EVEN IF YOUR FIVE YEAR PLAN WORKS OUT”

Outfit by Berluti









**BH:** Biggest challenge would probably be learning the 13/14 songs on the drums.

**DA:** It would be a massive understatement that Queen has a strong history and an equally strong fan base. Do you feel that this adds extra pressure on you—as well as the entire cast and crew—to really get things right for “Bohemian Rhapsody”?

**BH:** Their fan base is huge. And yeah, sure, that does apply some pressure. And obviously we want the fans to love this movie. But you will never please everyone so all we can do is present our interpretation and do the best we can to pay tribute and do justice to Queen.

**DA:** On the flip side, in what ways would you say can “Bohemian Rhapsody” appeal to moviegoers in general? Especially those who might not be all that familiar with Queen yet...

**BH:** You don’t need to be a Queen fan to like the movie. Though I’m struggling to think of someone who isn’t a fan of at least one Queen song! The journey of the young Parsee boy Farouk Bulsara creating the persona of Freddie Mercury and becoming one of the greatest rock and roll stars of all times is such an incredible story. Also it’s a really fun movie.

**DA:** All in all, though, what does “Bohemian Rhapsody” mean to you? Personally and also career-wise, that is.

**BH:** Personally, it’s a proud moment. I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to play one of the greatest rock and roll stars of all time.

**DA:** And still on a personal note, were you a Queen fan before you were involved in “Bohemian Rhapsody”? And either way, has it changed your appreciation for or view of the band in any way? Changed your personal favorite song, perhaps...

**BH:** Queen has always been top five or 10 for me. But after spending months listening to their albums on repeat they are definitely one of my favorite bands. Aside from the widely known anthemic hits they have so many amazing album tracks that I’d never heard before. “White Queen (As it Began)” might be my personal favorite.

**DA:** Beyond “Bohemian Rhapsody,” you’ve also been drafted into the cast of “Six Underground.” Can you tell us how this came about?

**BH:** I’ve been a fan of Michael Bay’s movies since I was in my teens, “Bad Boys” and “The Rock” in particular. I got the audition through and after a couple more rounds of auditions I got the happy phone call.

**DA:** “Six Underground” is directed by Michael Bay, has Ryan Reynolds in the lead and is described as “Deadpool” meets “Mission: Impossible,” possibly with lots of extra explosions thrown in. How would you personally describe the movie?

**BH:** I haven’t started filming yet so hard to speak for what the movie will be yet. But the script is dark, funny and filled with awesome action sequences.

**DA:** It’s still very early in production, but what are you most excited about “Six Underground”? What can fans expect from this movie?

**BH:** I’m playing a parkour expert, so I’m excited about learning some parkour.

**DA:** Of course, you’re no stranger to the genre, having made your big screen debut as Angel in 2016’s “X-Men: Apocalypse.” Today, what do you remember the most about being part of the “X-Men” universe?

**BH:** I remember struggling to go to the bathroom in my super suit and having a hell of a lot of fun with those guys.

**DA:** Is the superhero genre something you might want to revisit some day? Or, to put in a more poetic way: Will we ever see you put on spandex and—maybe—a cape once again?

**BH:** [Laughs] Who knows? I do love spandex.

**DA:** You started your career in theater, moved on to TV and now star in Hollywood blockbusters. This might sound a bit clichéd, but what would you say is the key to your success so far?

**BH:** Putting in the work. You need a bit of luck in this game but you’ve got be ready when your opportunity arises.

**DA:** Moving forward, what do you see as the biggest challenge you’ll face as an actor?

**BH:** Who knows? I like to keep it challenging.

**DA:** Conversely, what drives you? What motivates you the most?

**BH:** A good script. When I read a great script I just want to be part of it. Part of something special.

**DA:** And finally, another obvious cliché, but where do you see yourself in, say, five years or so from now? What are your long term plans?

**BH:** I prefer to take each day as it comes. If you can’t be happy with your current situation you probably won’t be happy even if your Five Year Plan works out. 🍀

“YOU NEED A  
BIT OF LUCK  
IN THIS GAME  
BUT YOU’VE  
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OPPORTUNITY  
ARISES”







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Outfit by Coach;  
shoes by Greats Brand;  
socks by Ralph Lauren



Outfit by Louis Vuitton



# At Large

Photography by **Randall Mesdon**













# FLAUNT





























OCTOBER 26, 2018

# BEN HARDY

BY LILY BURDIS

From being in the iconic TV series EastEnders, to playing the villain in X-Men, to then being the ultimate ladies' man in Bohemian Rhapsody, Ben Hardy has not been shy to take on a diverse repertoire of different roles throughout his acting career. Hardy route to acting came inn unconventional way. After no longer being able to play rugby due to a series of injuries, childhood friend's invited him to their local drama club that subsequently ended up leading him to where he is now as a global success story.

We got a chance to catch up with him to find out more about his life off and on camera and how it all begun.

**What was your life like pre-pose? I know coming from England and growing up in Sherborne what was the aspiration of becoming an actor? Was there someone that sparked your passion for acting?**

You know, I kind of always done crazy stuff and enjoyed drama class but I was always more into sports and really wanted to be a rugby player but I kept getting injured all the time so then I became bored and was so use to training 4 times a week and then I had nothing to do. So, a mate of mine was like why don't you come to the local drama club and I was like yeah sure why don't I try it out and basically it all went from there really when I was about 15. And then I went to drama school when I was 18 and I kind of fell in love with it.

**Having a background in theatre and having performed in the West End, when did you realize that you wanting to go into television and movie rather than to theatre?**

Well, it's not like I don't want to go back to it because I really do but sadly you know it's hard to make a good living in the theatreland but it's something that I love doing. I came out of drama school and straight into the theatre, most of my training at drama school is theatre-based so that was the kind of natural stepping stone but I always kind of wanted to do every kind of medium, TV, film everything...



**Coming from the notorious household name show EastEnders playing a role in an ensemble setting to a starring role in an international movie, how was that transition like for you?**

I mean, the contrast is huge, I was in kind of disbelief. It was unreal when I got the X-Men role. I mean I was just hoping to do EastEnders and do any kind of work, theatre or whatever so to get a big studio movie was a bit of a shock and I was kind of overwhelmed cause being on X-Men and the budget being what it is.... From getting 10 pages to half a page a day and having so much time, I really appreciated it, to the amount of time you have on film and to work on the scene.

**What type of response did you get from your fan base having seen you in EastEnders to then X-Men, you can imagine it's a drastic change of a direction?**

I mean, I don't really know about that, to be honest with you, I am not really active on social media and stuff like that, I don't really read anything like that but my friends and family were really happy for me, just chuffed for me as much as I was for myself so yeah, they were incredibly supportive, it was a great reaction and the premier was all very surreal and that's when I realised I was actually in X-men, it was crazy.

**Your role in X-Men was amazing, congratulations on that. Being in the creative industry and coming from overseas, it's always difficult for artists to break out in America, was X-Men a big turning point in your career where people in America started to have their eye on you? Or was it before? When was that turning point?**

Sure, no totally. So how it worked was my UK agent sent over some material to US agents to help me get a new agent overseas which was while I was still in EastEnders and then once I had US representation it was just trying to get my name on the map because no one had ever heard of me, so your 100 percent right, when I got X-men, I got a foot on the ladder I suppose, people were definitely interested like, who is this guy? Everyone is always interested in the new kid on the block, aren't they? So, that definitely got me a lot of auditions or maybe even jobs that I wouldn't have got before, so it was a massive boost for me just getting that role.

**Playing the role of Roger Taylor who not only is such a big character but also an icon, that must be quite an intimidating role to fill and pull off. How did you prepare yourself for that?**

Sure, I was very... because I never played a living person before, so it was a little bit of a daunting prospect, especially because Roger had involvement in the movie it was daunting the thought of him watching you do an artistic impression of their life. I just tried to not let it faze me and treat it like any other job but Roger was so supportive. I was able to meet him and I didn't know how he was going to feel about me but he was nothing but supportive towards me and gave me a mini drum from Abbey Road Studios which is one that I will always remember... Who gets to have a drum from Roger Taylor? Yeah, so it was insane. And one of the first things he said to me was, you know it's a movie not a documentary so there's going to be artistic licence so when he said that, it kind of liberated me in a way I suppose, because I felt like he



wasn't going to be staring down on me with the details, like 'I wouldn't have done this, I wouldn't have done that' and obviously you know I wanted to be as truthful to the representation of him as possible while serving a story.

**What is the most rewarding and most challenging part of your job?**

Can this be a separate question? Actually, I think that they are very combined with any job I pursue and am lucky enough to do. I always try to challenge myself to do something that makes me a little bit scared, something that will allow me to grow from, where at the end of it I will have a sense of achievement and reward so I don't feel like I have just played a role but where I have played it in a slightly different way.

I have been very fortunate to play different parts you know, like the supervillain in X-Men, to the rock and roll, ladies' man, drama etc. Things like that I always like to kind of push myself and challenge myself to try a part that is maybe a bit of a stretch for me or that is different to who I am and then if it pays off when I get a great sense of an achievement from and it's definitely very rewarding.

**In what ways has your journey as an actor been different than anticipated? It's probably a very wide question as I assume there are lots of things but anything that springs to mind?**

I suppose the first thing that springs to mind is that becoming an actor, I never knew what to expect, for me going from EastEnders to a Hollywood movie, you don't know what the Hollywood parse will be like, if it's going to be all glitz and glam, and it is but it's also a reality with its kind of own authenticity within it which was a welcome surprise but it's still very resided in normality. I feel like I have a very normal life as an actor, maybe it's different for A-listers, I don't know but where I am at anyways it's still, everything is all quite normal. Just like being on set it's pretty normal, you just get there, get a coffee, have lunch with everyone, it's your working environment while you're still kind of doing something crazy. I'm doing this movie with all of these different cameras and helicopters etc. and it's all really wild and cool but sometimes you just need to take a moment to think about the experience you have the opportunity to get, but besides that there is that same normal type of working environment between the cast and crew and I think that for me not necessarily a surprise but I think that I wouldn't have thought about, how it could be like and was definitely a welcome surprise.



**Outside of your acting career, what are your personal goals?**

I like to hang out with friends and family, I like to photograph, I like to play music, I'm not particularly good at it but, I was just before this conversation, writing a song on the guitar but yeah I like to listen to music so I suppose that's it really. I do still love watching films but there are times where it's difficult to watch when you're so involved in the industry, it's an effort to not look at the things that maybe a normal viewer would view them as, or not even at all, like why are the cameras like that, etc. But I still do love going to the movies yeah so I would say socialising, movies and listening to music and try to play a bit of music.

**Would music be something that you would consider incorporating in your acting career?**

Well I mean, I played the drums in Bohemian Rhapsody, so I have kind of already done that but sure I mean I always like to acquire new skills on the job you know, so for the job I'm doing now I am doing learning how to free parkour. Which has been an interesting experience and then in the Bohemian Rhapsody I got to play the drums so I'm always up to bringing skills outside of that in to my job but I'm not sure if I am really good enough yet at playing the guitar but then yet again I wasn't good at playing the drums before so who knows...

**Did they give you some lessons or how did that work?**



Yeah they did, I had a great teacher, I just done as much practice as my schedule allowed me to do and then I had a little sound booth room in the house I was living in at the time and I would just spend hours in there just going over and over and over the songs just to try to get as good as I could.

**What advice do you have for all of the young people who want to pursue acting as it is such a tough industry to get into to?**

Yes, It certainly is a tough industry. I have got a lot of friends, good friends that are struggling to get work because it's such a challenging career. So, a good advice would be to make sure you really want it and to be persistent and put up with in-between jobs, like working in a bar or and stuff like that ... I would say to get into the industry you need to have an agent, that is the most important thing. Drama school isn't enough; you don't come out of drama school with an agent and its very uncommon to have that happen. I know some people managed to do it another way like being in a showcase and they happen to get seen at a pub theatre or something.... But definitely what I would say, if you want to get in the business getting an agent is definitely the first hurdle you have to jump, but if you have the right mind-set you will get there.

**What do we expect to see from Ben Hardy in the future? Any upcoming projects you can talk about?**

I'm shooting this film right now in Italy called 6 UNDERGROUND with Michael Bay which should be out next spring and I'm really excited about it. It's been quite a sociological barrier for me as I have to jump around all of these Italian rooftops which are quite scary but still exiting.

**That's another thing I was going to ask you, so being an actor, you get to travel quite a lot I guess? How is that like for you? Do you enjoy it; does it get tiring?**

I mean it's great, I always try to remember that... With this job, I have been able to go to so many nice places, going to Portugal, America and now Florence on someone else's payroll which is always a plus. There are so many people that want to travel the world, and I get to do that while getting to do my dream job but on the flip side to that there are times where you spend months away from home, you feel a bit like homesick I guess, you miss your friends and family stuff like that. but I am definitely not complaining, it is one of the best experiences ever



# People

## Ben Hardy Admits He Told a 'Big Lie' to Be Cast as Queen Drummer Roger Taylor in *Bohemian Rhapsody*



Ben Hardy

LISA O'CONNOR/AFP/Getty Images

## Ben Hardy credits a white lie in helping land him the role of a lifetime.

Ben Hardy credits a “big lie” in helping land him the [role of a lifetime](#).

After wrapping his first movie role on the massive superhero blockbuster, *X-Men: The Apocalypse*, the British actor, 27, jumped at the opportunity to audition for Roger Taylor, the former drummer in the rock band Queen.

“I worked with [director] Bryan Singer before on *X-Men* and I sent him an email when I heard about [*Bohemian Rhapsody*] and in the nicest way possible was like, ‘Can I do this?’” Hardy tells PEOPLE.

Hardy explains, “He had reservations based upon the fact that he wanted the person who played Roger Taylor to be able to play the drums because you can cheat the other instruments with camera angles, but in the wide shots you can see if the drum is out of sync. So I told him I could play the drums—which I couldn’t at the time.”

The next two weeks became a blur of drumming for ten hours a day to get the song down and recruiting a local drumming teacher to teach him.

“I wanted the job really bad. Who doesn’t want to play a rock’ n roll star? So I told him a little white lie—slash—big lie, that I could play the drums. So he was like great, can you put this song on film for me to show to the producers. I went away in a massive panic, there wasn’t enough time—I bought the cheapest drum kit I could find and found a drum teacher locally and was like, ‘Look here’s the deal I need to learn to play this song as soon as possible, what can you do?’

“Bryan messaged me and was like ‘Where’s the video?’ I was like, ‘Here is the moment, gonna have to do it, so I put it on film and just prayed,’” he recalls.



Luckily, it worked!

The [upcoming film](#) chronicles Queen from 1970, when Mercury teamed with Brian May and Taylor, until the band's performance at Live Aid in 1985, six years before the singer died of complications from AIDS.



Ben Hardy  
John Sciulli/Getty

Hardy says after finally landing the role, he began slimming down his athletic build to better match Taylor's very slender figure in the early 70s and joked at times he was definitely "hangry."

After weeks of filming, Hardy met the famous drummer at Abbey Road Studios and received a private drum lesson.

"I had so many questions to ask him," says Hardy. "He gave me a mini drum lesson, which was so cool. Who gets to say they got a drum lesson from Rodger Taylor at Abbey Road Studios? Then we had lunch at this little French place down the road."

It was recently announced that Hardy would be joining Ryan Reynolds in the Michael Bay-directed Netflix action film, *6 Underground*, which is expected to premiere on Netflix in 2019.

*Bohemian Rhapsody* opens November 2.