

Tiaan Rautenbach plays Buddy in *We Will Rock You*

By  Martin Myers

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The brand-new production and major world tour of Queen and Ben Elton's multi-award-winning rock musical *We Will Rock You* is currently running at the Artscape Theatre Centre in Cape Town until Sunday, 4 June 2023 and thereafter continues in New Zealand before embarking on various territories abroad.



Image by Christiaan Kotze

We Will Rock You is not a tribute show, nor does it tell the story of Queen or the legendary Freddie Mercury. Instead, *We Will Rock You* is a large full-scale new vision musical theatre production with its own storyline set to the music of Queen's most popular hits.

The production features 24 of Queen's hit songs including *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*, *Killer Queen*, and global favourites *We are the Champions*, *Bohemian Rhapsody* and of course, *We Will Rock You*.

The highly talented cast is a combination of established, well-known performers and fresh new talent.

I recently caught up with Tiaan Rautenbach, who plays the character of Buddy, and has played roles in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Binnelanders* and *Aspoestertjie*.

▣ ***What is your purpose?***

What is anybody's purpose? To make the best of this thing called life and have as much fun along the way as possible. Oh, and to play more ukulele.

▣ ***What does music mean to you?***

Everything! Whether I'm happy or sad, busy or bored, there's usually a song playing in the background or being sung by me.

▣ ***My music is about...***

Life, love and occasionally zombies.

▣ ***What is your motto?***

Just keep on keeping on.

▣ ***Fame is about...***

Honestly, don't know, don't care.

▣ ***Retirement will happen when...***

I physically cannot make it onto a stage or in front of a camera anymore.

▣ ***I don't do...***

TikTok.

▣ ***I would love to co-write with...***

Jennifer Saunders and Dawn French.

▣ ***Where do you go for inspiration to create?***

Usually my lounge.

▣ ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

Getting paid to do something I truly love doing.

▣ ***The song you must do during every show?***

In *We Will Rock You* I only have one solo number, so, *Those Were the Days of Our Lives*.

▣ ***Any funny moments on stage?***

Too many to recount, but it usually entails something going wrong and making eye contact with the perpetrator.

▣ ***My heroes are...***

David Bowie, Tori Amos and Jennifer Saunders.

▣ ***My style icon is...***

Me.

▣ ***Which living person do you admire most and why?***

RuPaul for turning an obscure fringe form of art into a multi-million-dollar empire whilst spreading the message of love.

▣ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

My new iPad Pro.

▣ ***It's your round, what are you drinking?***

A margarita!

▣ ***Dream gig to do?***

I would love to do a big band show with a real big, big band.

▣ ***What makes you stand out?***

My awkward charm...?

▣ ***Any nicknames?***

T.

▣ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

Some form of visual art. Cartoonist or graphic novelist.

▣ ***Pick five words to describe yourself?***

Chilled. Musical. Creative. Lazy and Funny.

▣ ***Five must have songs on your Spotify playlist please***

Life on Mars - David Bowie

Hey Jupiter - Tori Amos

Glory Box - Portishead

I Got So High That I Saw Jesus - Noah & Miley Cyrus

The Ride - Amanda Palmer

▣ ***Greatest movie ever made?***

Natural Born Killers.

▣ ***What book are you reading?***

Liarmouth by John Waters.

▣ ***What song changed your life?***

Life On Mars? by David Bowie.

▣ **Who do you love?**

My family.

▣ **What is your favorite word?**

Perturbed.

▣ **Top of your bucket list?**

Always more travel!

▣ **Your greatest achievement?**

Not sure if it's my greatest achievement, but I'm super proud of the series *Blikskottel and Kompleks that I co-created and starred in with my best friends.*

▣ **What do you complain about most often?**

My arthritic knee.

▣ **What is your biggest fear?**

Physical torture.

▣ **Happiness is...**

Chilling with tunes and tv.

▣ **On stage, I tend to...**

Feel at home.

▣ **The best life lesson you have learned?**

It's amazing what you can do when you absolutely have to do it.

▣ **What has been your favorite journey so far?**

I once spent a month in Berlin and I would go back there in a heartbeat.

▣ **Do you do charity work, and if you do – what do you do?**

I don't, but I used to perform free gigs at old age homes when I was at school and I recently thought of starting up something like that again.

▣ **Wishes and dreams?**

Just more of the same. I love the trajectory of my life and if things could keep going onward and upward, I'd be incredibly grateful.

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