

# 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?**

*Liaermouth* 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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