I Can Die Too

WRITTEN BY FRANCES RUFFELLE, SALLY GEORGE & ALAN CUMMING

théâtre des capucins



Thursday 19, Friday 20
& Saturday 21 November 2026 • 7.30pm
at the Théâtre des Capucins

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Running time **1h20 (no intermission)**

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Introduction to the play by Karolina Markiewicz
30 minutes before every performance (EN).

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Directed by **Bill Buckhurst**
Designer **Simon Kenny**
Choreography **Alistair David**
Lighting design **Emma Chapman**
Musical Director **Frew**
Casting Director **Will Burton for Grindrod & Burton**
Music & lyrics by **Frances Ruffelle, Sam Kelser, Mark Kelser, Simon Alexander, Robin Hancock, George de Angelis, Natti Vogel, Rafi, Dan McDougal, Eliza Caird, Blair Mackichan, Jim Duguid**

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James **Stephen Ashfield**
Ted (Voiceover) **Norman Bowman**
Johnny **Frew**
Lee **Melinda Orengo**
Lily **Frances Ruffelle**
Young Girl **Maya Rugen**
Georgie **Flora Spencer-Longhurst**

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A **Pitlochry Festival Theatre ; Lovechild/Evan Sacks & Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg** Production

14+ Recommended age !*× Violence / Swearing Strobe / Lighting

I Can Die Too

SONG LIST

Act 1

Song 1 **Be Happy**
Song 2 **Awake**
Song 3 **Dance With Me**

Act 2

Song 4 **I Want My Flaws Back**
Song 5 **When And If**
Song 6 **Piece of Mind**
Song 7 **Song Only Now**

Act 3

Song 8 **I Can Die Too**
Song 9 **One More Song**

Jean Cocteau died on the same day as Édith Piaf, in September 1963. On hearing the news, he reportedly said, “La Piaf est morte. Je peux mourir aussi” – and did, hours later.
It is a story of life imitating art with fatal precision, and the ideal starting point for this sharp, self-aware new work by Frances Ruffelle, Sally George, and the mercurial Alan Cumming.

Set during a chaotic tech rehearsal, *I Can Die Too* watches its leading actress, Lily, attempt to perform a play inspired by Cocteau’s *La Voix Humaine*, the 1930 monodrama of a woman unravelling in a telephone call to her departing lover. The trouble is, the role mirrors her own life too closely for comfort, and the parallels keep multiplying. As the rehearsal spirals, Lily abandons the script, confronts her ghosts, and surrenders to the only honest outlet available: song.

Part concert, part tragicomedy, part theatrical deconstruction, director Bill Buckhurst frames the breakdown of performance as a space where something truer can emerge. Ruffelle (Tony Award winner as Éponine in the original Broadway production of *Les Misérables* and the UK’s Eurovision representative in 1994) performs the role herself, bringing an unmistakable personal charge to a work she co-created.

Funny, raw, and formally playful, this first co-production between Pitlochry Festival Theatre and the Théâtres de la Ville asks what survives when the pretending stops.

TEARING UP THE MUSICAL THEATRE RULE BOOK

The first time I read *I Can Die Too* I was blown away by the incredible energy that leapt off the page. I've always loved backstage dramas and this one totally nails the glorious, messy, sometimes chaotic, funny and surreal experience of making a piece of theatre.

It's a show that isn't afraid to tear up the musical theatre rule book but it also brilliantly tells the beautiful, moving story of Lily – an actor preparing to play the role of a lifetime who also happens to be working through one of the most significant emotional experiences of her life. Art imitates life - or is it the other way round? – and things begin to spiral until she isn't quite sure what's real and what isn't. Binding this all together is a collection of stunning songs played and performed by our extraordinary, multi-talented cast led by the fabulous Frances Ruffelle.

It's been a privilege to work with such a wonderful team of people and we're thrilled to share this brand new show with you in the amazing Studio at Pitlochry Festival Theatre. We've had a blast in rehearsals and we hope you enjoy this performance as much as we've enjoyed making it.

Bill Buckhurst
Director

Frances Ruffelle

Frances originated the role of Éponine in *Les Misérables* in both London and on Broadway, and won a Tony Award, Theatre World Award, Outer Critics Circle Award and Helen Hayes Award. She was also nominated for a UK Theatre Award for her performance in *Piaf*.

Theatre credits include: *Les Misérables* (The Broadway Theatre/Barbican Centre); *Piaf* (Leicester Curve); *Pippin* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Chicago* (Adelphi Theatre); *Starlight Express* (Apollo Victoria Theatre); *The Wild Party* (The Other Palace); *The Sleeping Prince* (Theatre Royal Haymarket); *Closer to Heaven* (Turbine Theatre); *Lucky Stiff* (Bridewell Theatre).

Sally George

Sally is a well-respected award-winning British actress with an extremely strong body of work in theatre film, television and radio, spanning over four decades. Originally from Hull, Sally trained at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She went on to spend several years with the Royal Shakespeare Company graduating quickly from ensemble cast to leading roles, with numerous theatre credits including The National Theatre and London's West End. Sally's TV work is extensive, and she has appeared in several films. Notably her performance as Caitlin Thomas in *Love Somehow* for which she received four best actress awards. On the horizon for Sally is a leading role later this year at the Arcola in London and following that a tour of the US in a new play. Sally has three current writing projects in development and is especially thrilled that *I Can Die Too* has premiered in this exciting 2026 season at Pitlochry Festival Theatre with Alan Cumming at the helm.

Alan Cumming

Alan is Artistic Director of Pitlochry Festival Theatre, and has been working as an actor, writer, producer and director for the past 40 years. For more information, please visit alancumming.com.

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A Theatre for Everyone. A Theatre for a Lifetime.

Since 1951, Pitlochry Festival Theatre has been the artistic heart and soul of Highland Perthshire. Attracting over 100,000 visitors every year, we're more than simply a place to come and see a show – we're Scotland's leading producer of musical theatre and the country's only rurally–located, major arts organisation. Our purpose is to improve lives by sharing Pitlochry with the world and the world with Pitlochry. Our aim is to create life–enhancing experiences in our Theatre and its glorious eleven–acre campus that encompasses the magical Explorers Garden. In everything we do, we are committed to nurturing an exciting creative and cultural future for Scotland. Pitlochry Festival Theatre is a charity supported by funding from Creative Scotland and Perth & Kinross Council. It is also grateful to the many individual donors, trusts and foundations, and corporate partners who continue to support the Theatre in its vision. Pitlochry Festival Theatre is a registered Scottish Charity. No SC013055.

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Iphigénie en Tauride

Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787)

Direction musicale **Théotime Langlois de Swarte**
Mise en scène & texte **Wajdi Mouawad**
Chœur **Les éléments**
Orchestre **Ensemble Le Consort**



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Grand Théâtre • 04 – 13.12.2026

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Holiday Sauce

Taylor Mac



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Impression **Atelier reprographique Ville de Luxembourg**

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