



A few of my favourite things

By Simon Russell Beale

My hair is the only bit of my body that I like. I'm not balding, which is good. I like the colour too.

Taramasalata Nothing beats a really good homemade one, it makes me really happy – I like it when it's really fishy.

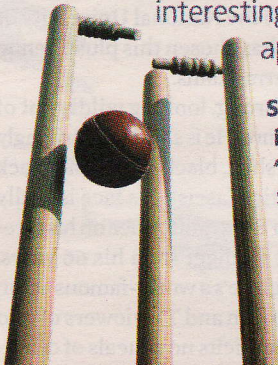
Shakespeare is at the centre my professional life and I go back to him again and again. I can't get enough of the man.

My scrapbook When I was seven I was left at boarding school while my family took a boat to Singapore, so my mum made it for me. It's now completely dog-eared and falling to bits.

Leo Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina' is the greatest novel ever written. It's just perfect.

Newport train station I used to love going to South Wales to see my grandparents, so I still get a little twinge at seeing the station, even though it's changed a lot since then.

Cricket I'm not a sportsman at all, but I just love watching cricket. Every single ball is interesting, even if nothing apparently happens.



Simon Russell Beale is playing King Arthur in 'Monty Python's Spamalot' until 21 July, at the Palace Theatre, London (tel: 0870 90 0142). He was talking to Joanna Caird