

MICHAEL SIMKINS

Michael is a familiar face both on stage and television. Last summer he was seen as Sir Edward Ramsay in Raymond Gubbay's production of *The King & I* at The Royal Albert Hall, and before that as Billy Flynn in the musical *Chicago*, Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia*, and Paul in Sam Mendes' award-winning production of *Company*.

In addition he has appeared in many plays: most recently in Alan Ayckbourn's production of his own play, *Taking Steps* at the Orange Tree Richmond. He has also featured many times in the west end, in plays as diverse as *Donkey's Years*, *Mary Stuart*, *Democracy*, *The Old Masters*, *Henceforward*, *Richard III* and *Look Look*. He was also in *Burn This* with John Malcovich, and played Marco in the NT's memorable production of Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge*, for which he was nominated Best Supporting Actor. Other NT credits include *A Small Family Business* and *King Lear*.

On TV he's appeared in hundreds of drama series, often as policemen or unsuspecting husbands. Recent work includes the murderer Manfred Canter in the last series of *Lewis*, the terrible nightclub singer Charles Cupid in *Minder*, and the regular character of Lionel Mead in the BBC series *Doctors*. Other regular credits include Hugh Reid in series one of *Foyle's War* and Mr Gibbs in *My Dad's The Prime Minister*.

Films include: *V For Vendetta*, *Revelations*, *Heidi* for Disney Productions, and Mike Leigh's *Topsy-Turvy*.

Michael is also a well known author and journalist, having written three best-selling books: *What's My Motivation*, the Costa-shortlisted *Fatty Batter*, and most recently a travel book about our nearest neighbours: *Detour De France*.

He is also a regular contributor to *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Telegraph*, and is a familiar voice on *Radio 4* in programmes such as *Front Row*, *Off The Page*, *Quote Unquote* and *BH*. He recently achieved a lifetime ambition by taking part in a live broadcast of *Friday Night Is Music Night*.

As Sir Ian McKellar once said of him, 'It's thrilling Michael is having such success as a writer. Anything to keep him off the stage...'