

EX-MECHANIC MOVES FROM CLASSIC CARS TO THE



Production line: Alfie Boe entertains staff at the TVR sports car factory in Blackpool, where he once worked as a mechanic

Singing La TWIRIA

training scheme for young singers.

After a few months, he was offered a lead role in Moulin

Rouge director Baz Luhrmann's

Broadway production of La

Bohème, for which he picked up

a Tony Award.

Having moved back from New

York, Mr Boe, 30, and his wife

Sarah plan to settle in London.

The singer admits his back-

ground is unlike that of most-

classical singers but he reckons

the leap from cars to opera was

not so great.

He said: "My father was always

would be playing on the radio, so

as a kid I used to listen to it a lot."

His debut album is released on

the Classic FM label next month

and he hopes his music will

of life. He said: "It's a pity that

classical music has that stigma of

being upper-class entertainment.

"In its day, it was the popular

music of the time and the com-

posers were the pop stars."

Key changes: Rehearsing



BY SARAH HILLS

the factory I was going to

become a singer, they thought,

"yeah right?"

In the early days, money was so

tight he was forced to sleep

rough on a park bench in Hyde

Park - a stone's throw from the

Royal Albert Hall.

Today, however, Mr Boe is

signed to two top classical music

labels and he will perform at the

famous hall on September 21.

He honed his craft at the

National Opera Studio and

joined the Royal Opera House's

THE journey from £70-a-week

car mechanic to operatic tenor

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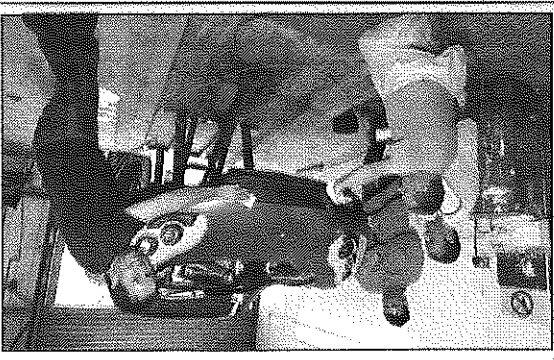
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Big brake:
But Mr Boe
hasn't
lost any
of his old
skills