

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's pop legend **Suzi Quatro's** turn



'I'd like to make the movie of my life – but the real story, not some Hollywood version. I think Carey Mulligan would be perfect to play me'

The prized possession you value above all others... A small blue-and-white sugar bowl and salt and pepper shaker set that I gave my mom Helen for Mother's Day when I was seven. She treasured them until she died in 1992.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Having an abortion when I was 18. I'm a Catholic, so it went against my beliefs, but I wouldn't have led the life I have if I'd been a teenage mother.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran. I can find beautiful truths on every page.

The temptation you wish you could resist... A nip of brandy in the middle of the night when I can't sleep. It's not a good habit, but it works.

The person who has influenced you most... My mom. She was my moral weather vane. If I ever went off the rails, her teachings made sure I didn't go too far. She died from stomach cancer aged 79.

Right: Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in *Gone With The Wind*. Above right: Suzi's single *Can The Can*. Far right: Maui, Hawaii



The event that altered the course of your life and character... When the English record producer Mickie Most offered me a contract when I was 21. He saw me perform with my sisters, but only wanted me. He said, 'Stay in the US and be the next Janis Joplin, or come to Britain and be the first Suzi Quatro.' I'm still here!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... It drives me crazy if someone's not really listening when I'm talking.

The film you can watch time and time again... I've seen *Gone With The Wind* at least 100 times. It has every emotion you can expect to feel in life.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... When Mickie called me in June 1973 at my digs in London to tell me *Can The Can* had gone to No.1. He said, 'You're doing *Top Of The Pops*.' My dream had come true and I screamed the house down.



The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd eavesdrop on any of my three sisters after we've had an argument. We love each other, but we fight.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Don't be in too much of a rush to grow up. I love my career, but I was in a band with my sisters at 14 and I lost a whole chunk of my innocence.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Writing poetry. If something bad happens, I turn it into a positive by writing a poem.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Jesus. I'd just love to feel his charisma.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A little plastic elephant I got in a Christmas cracker in 1973. It was my good luck charm. I wore it on a necklace until I lost it in 1984.

The unending quest that drives you on... To please people. I was born to be a performer. I still come off stage as high as a kite after a good gig.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm intimidating. I'm kind and approachable.

The poem that touches your soul... *Footprints In The Sand* by Mary Stevenson, about how God carries you during the toughest times.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd do a bank stick-up like *Bonnie and Clyde*.

The song that means most to you... *When I Fall In Love* by Nat King Cole, because it says what life is all about.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd travel on my own so there'd be no compromises! The day would begin at sunrise with grapefruit juice and coffee on a deserted beach in Maui, Hawaii. I'd then spend all morning in my childhood neighbourhood in Detroit, and later play poker at MotorCity Casino. Lunch would be at New York's *Mezzaluna* restaurant, which makes the world's best pizza. I'd

stroll around Manhattan, then spend the afternoon in Tokyo. After an amazing Japanese dinner, I'd end up in Australia, which, after 30 tours, is like a second home. In Melbourne I'd catch up with my husband Rainer and my kids [from her first marriage] Richard, 31, and Laura, 33, plus Laura's daughter Amy, 14, and her foster son Taylor, seven. We'd stay at the Crown Hotel.

The saddest time that shook your world... The last time I spoke to my mom. I was in England because I couldn't face being there right at the end. We talked on the phone and she died a day later. I think of her every day.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To make a movie of my life – but the real story, not some bull**** Hollywood version. I think Carey Mulligan would be perfect to play me.

The philosophy that underpins your life... If you don't tell your truth to somebody, you deny them the opportunity to tell you their truth.

The order of service at your funeral... I'll have a traditional service at the Catholic church near my home in Essex, with *When I Fall In Love* played at the end.

The way you want to be remembered... Honest, kind and entertaining.

The Plug... The *The Girl From Detroit City* box set of four CDs is out now. Suzi's poetry anthology *Through My Eyes* is available at suziquatro.com. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston team up in rom-com Mother's Day – in cinemas from Friday. The Monkees' new album Good Times! is out now. And Martin Shaw stars in Hobson's Choice at London's Vaudeville Theatre from Wednesday



NEXT WEEK

- David Mitchell on his brilliant Shakespeare spoof *Upstart Crow*
- Mark the Queen's Official 90th Birthday with Tom Kerridge's royal banquet
- Monty Don's guide to Mediterranean herbs
- PLUS Britain's best TV guide