

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's comedian Sarah Millican's turn

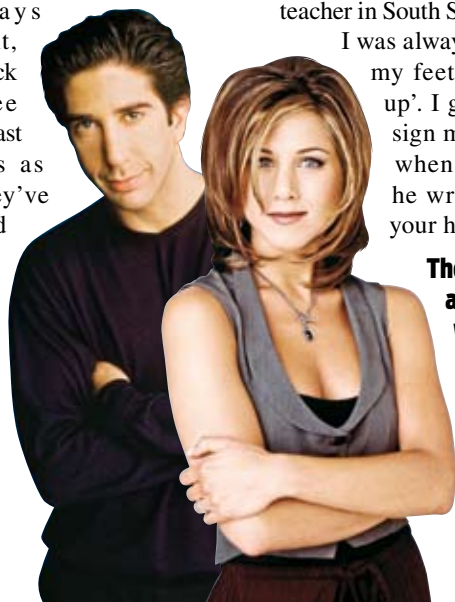
The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Never learning to touch type. So much of my life is spent furiously bashing a keyboard with three fingers and a thumb for the space bar. I wish we'd learned it at school instead of PE. Netball hardly ever comes up.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People who are on time. If everyone's late, no one's annoyed and we're all fashionable.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd see what my dog and cats do when I'm away. I have a schnoodle called Tuvok, after a Star Trek character, and the cats are Chief Brody, after the cop in Jaws, and Lieutenant Ripley from Alien.

The temptation you wish you could resist... The television show Friends. I'm always watching it, so it's a shock when I see any of the cast now – it's as though they've all aged overnight.

Right: Friends. Above right: stationery. Far right: the car from Death Proof



The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Caitlin Moran's How To Be A Woman got my feminist alarm bells going – it should be given to all teenage girls.

The prized possession you value above all others... My notebooks for scribbling down jokes. My main addiction is stationery and the notebooks go back to when I started doing stand-up 12 years ago. They're precious, but a terrifying glimpse into my brain.

The film you can watch time and time again... Jaws. I laugh when someone says Chief Brody is closing the beaches because I think, 'He can't, he's a cat!'

The person who has influenced you most... Mr Thomas, my junior school teacher in South Shields. I was shy so I was always looking down at my feet. He'd say, 'Head up'. I got the teachers to sign my autograph book when I left school and he wrote, 'Always hold your head high.'

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That all I eat is cake. I did a handful of jokes about cake and now people think I never go near a vegetable.



'My addiction is stationery, but other people get bored of looking at sticky notes and ring binders. Idiots!'



The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Come back when you're 25!

I'm happier if children are elsewhere because I don't know what to do with them.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Doing crafts like a seven-year-old. It's freeing to do something that's allowed to be rubbish. I made a Get Well Soon card for my best friend and it was so bad she told people it was from her niece.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Victoria Wood. She paved the way for all female comics. I never got to meet her, but it was so sad when she died this year. What a loss.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A leather bracelet with the word 'Fearless' on it that my sister Victoria gave me when I started doing stand-up. I loved it but I lost it while I was on tour. My husband [comedian Gary Delaney, whom she married in 2013] has since replaced it.

The unending quest that drives you on... To be a better comedian and a better person.

The poem that touches your soul... A quote by Goethe: 'Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it; Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.'

The event that altered the course of your life and character... My out-of-the-blue divorce [first husband Andrew Millican left her in 2004]. I dealt with it through counselling and by talking to strangers through comedy.

The song that means most to you... The theme from the 1978 Superman film makes me feel I can do anything.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal the reinforced stunt car from Quentin Tarantino's film Death Proof so I could crash into idiot drivers on the M6 while keeping myself safe.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'm not very adventurous so my perfect day would involve being at home with very

little driving because I'm on the road a lot. I'd have a lie-in, then a two-hour bath listening to podcasts. Then I'd go on a stationery crawl to Staples, Ryman, Paperchase and WH Smith on my own because other people get bored of looking at sticky notes and ring binders. Idiots! Later I'd have dinner with pals, at three different restaurants, then go home to sleep it off.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... When the veterinary nurse told me to put pants on Tuvok after he'd been neutered. I finally had permission to put clothes on my dog.

The saddest time that shook your world... My divorce. I was in a chrysalis of tears and jogging pants, but I bounced back and I'm stronger for it.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I'd like Standard Issue, the women's e-magazine I started in 2014, to go from strength to strength.

The philosophy that underpins your life... There's no such thing as 'can't'.

The order of service at your funeral... Build a big bonfire and put me on the top, then play Relight My Fire by Take That and Lulu.

The way you want to be remembered... As someone who finally learned to touch type.

The Plug... Sarah Millican: Outsider Live is out on DVD and digital download from Monday, but is available to pre-order now. Read Standard Issue at standardissuemagazine.com. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard star in WWII drama *Allied* – in cinemas Friday. Prince 4Ever, a greatest hits album, is out the same day. And hit Broadway musical *Dreamgirls* is previewing at London's Savoy Theatre from tonight



NEXT WEEK

- Jodie Kidd on her tough new celebrity cycling show
- Part two of Royal Wedding cake maker Fiona Cairns' festive baking series
- PLUS Britain's best TV listings