

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's classical singer Katherine Jenkins

The prized possession you value above all others...

My wedding ring [she married American artist Andrew Levitas in 2014]. It's a platinum band with diamonds around it. Andrew is really romantic and had it engraved on the inside. I cried when I read it, but I won't share what it says here!

The biggest regret you wish you could amend...

That my dad Selwyn didn't live to see what happened with my career. He died from lung cancer at 70 when I was 15. He was a stay-at-home dad while my mum worked, so he was the one who shuttled me to music and singing lessons. He would have loved every minute of my success.

The temptation you wish you could resist...

Watching trash TV like Hollywood Medium on the E! channel.

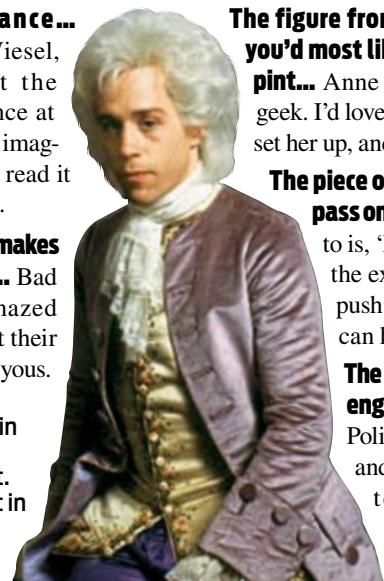
The book that holds an everlasting resonance...

Night by Elie Wiesel, which is about the author's experience at Auschwitz. I can't imagine anyone could read it and not be moved.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise...

Bad manners. I'm amazed how people forget their pleases and thank yous.

Right: Tom Hulce in Amadeus. Above right: an elephant. Far right: a sunset in the Hamptons



The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day...

I'd wipe out the poaching gangs killing rhinos and elephants. I support charities such as TUSK which are trying to stop the illegal ivory trade.



The film you can watch time and time again...

Amadeus (1984). I first watched it on video when I was ten and I was absorbed by the story. Mozart's music has played an important part in my life.

The person who has influenced you most...

My mum Susan, who's 65 now. She told me and my sister Laura, who's two years younger, that we could do anything in life if we worked hard.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint...

Anne Boleyn. I'm a Tudor geek. I'd love to know if Cromwell set her up, and if she had affairs.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...

My motto is, 'It's never crowded on the extra mile.' When you push yourself, great things can happen.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...

Politics. I'm a news junkie and I go to Prime Minister's Questions at Westminster.



'I'm fascinated by politics – I'm a news junkie and I go to Prime Minister's Questions at Westminster'

Maldives. We went there for our honeymoon and had dinner on a sandbank. It was the most romantic thing ever.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... The birth of my daughter. Professionally, it was getting the BRIT award for Album of the Year for Second Nature in 2005.

The saddest time that shook your world... Losing my dad was such a shock. I still miss him and think of him all the time, and I feel strongly that he's been guiding me ever since.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To play Carmen at Llangollen Musical Festival. I had to pull out this year after getting a virus.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Nothing worth having comes easily. That goes for friendships, marriage, children, health and work.

The order of service at your funeral... I want a celebratory mood at St David's Church in my hometown of Neath, with hymns including Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind and Calon Lan. I want funny speeches and for me to be sung out by a gospel choir.

The way you want to be remembered... A devoted and loving wife, mother and – hopefully – grandmother, who could belt out a tune from time to time.

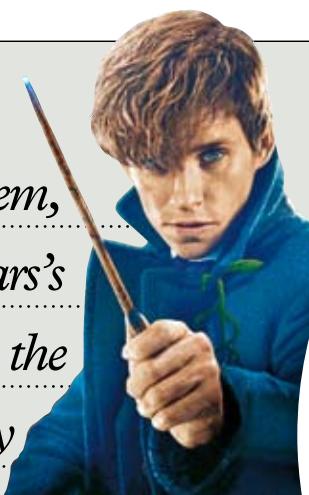
The Plug... Katherine's Celebration tour begins in Swansea on 1 December and she performs at London's Barbican Hall on 27 December. Visit katherinejenkins.co.uk. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

JK Rowling's Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them, with Eddie Redmayne, is in cinemas Friday. Bruno Mars' third album, 24K Magic, is out the same day. And it's the opening night of King Lear at The Barbican on Tuesday



NEXT WEEK

● Royal Wedding cake maker

Fiona Cairns kicks off the festive period with her Stir Up Sunday Christmas pudding and cake recipes

● Comedian Sarah Millican on the saddest time that shook her world

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