The prized possession you value above all others... My collection of children's book... The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... I didn't give my parents enough attention because I was obsessed with being a jack-the-lad film director. I feel utterly ashamed.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I hate airports, so I would need a private jet to fly my fiancée Geraldine [whom Michael is due to marry on Monday] and I to two countries I have never visited — India and China. A helicopter would whizz us to the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, and I would lap up the different cultures.

The temptation you wish you could resist... I wish my brain said 'No' when confronted with a chocolate éclair, rather than 'As many as possible'.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Walter The Farting Dog. It is about a dog that parodies some burglars with its farts. I am very childish — it is my only quality!

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd go to Downing Street to observe the so-called great and good who lead us. We are told they are better than us, but I am certain they are all dumb.

The way fame and fortune has changed you, for better and worse... I have been famous for 50 years, so it is hard to know if I have changed. I can walk down the street without much trouble, although people sometimes shout, 'Calm down, dear!' As for the fortune, I am £5 million in debt!

The film you can watch time and time again... The Third Man with Orson Welles is a perfect example of film-making. I have seen it 36 times.

The person who has influenced you most... A schoolmistress called Miss Hobbs, who ran a crammer college in London. I left school at 16 with a terrible education, but in one year Miss Hobbs got me into Cambridge to study Law and Economics. She gave me an inner peace that changed my life.

The figure from history for whom you'd inner peace that changed my life. Law and Economics. She gave me an inner peace that changed my life.

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions — and only accept THE definitive answer.

This week's bon vivant Michael Winner

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... The race in life is not for the fleet of foot, it is for the plodder.

The unending quest that drives you... The philosophy that underpins your life... When you leave a room, ensure the people you were with are happier than they were before you went in.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I wish I had won an Oscar. It is most unlikely now, but miracles can happen.

The song that means most to you... The song that means most to you...

The saddest time that shook your world... When my mother died in 1984 aged 78. We had fallen out because she gambled away £100 million of my inheritance. We had not spoken for four months, but I was prepared to have a reconciliation. I delayed it, then she died. It upsets me to this day.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I wish I had won an Oscar. It is most unlikely now, but miracles can happen.

Queen Boudicca. I like people who most like to buy a pie and a pint...

The philosophy that underpins your life... When you leave a room, ensure the people you were with are happier than they were before you went in.

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