The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions — and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's David Hasselhoff's turn

The prized possession you value above all others... My father Joseph's wedding ring. It's dated 4 June 1946, when he married my mum Dolores. They had a lifetime of love and laughter together. Mum died in 2009 and Dad last year.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Never going down on one knee to ask someone to marry me without the feeling I was cornered into it. I've been divorced twice and both marriages began with a kind of ultimatum.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Kicking against the word 'no'. When I hear that, it activates an alarm bell in me that says, 'Do it!'

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Sammy Davis Jr's autobiography Yes I Can. I tell young people who want to get into showbusiness to read it because what he did was amazing.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd go to Syria and annihilate everyone involved in ISIS.

The person who has influenced you most...

My father. I got my outgoing behaviour from him

Right: Sammy Davis Jr. Above right: a cat. Far right: Venice and my sense of humour, which is probably my greatest asset.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... I love cats but their hair gets up my nose.

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

It's A Wonderful Life. Jimmy Stewart is the most honest actor I've seen.

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

The 18th-century American founding father Benjamin Franklin – a creator, writer, inventor and amazing adventurer who foresaw the future.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... See it, believe it, live it. If you can visualise your future and follow your dreams and your talent, then what you want will come true.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... To find out what women really say about men!

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... Youth! I'm 63, but in my head I'm 25 and still rockin' and rollin'.

The unending quest that drives you on... Adventure. I'm always hungry for whatever's around the next corner.

The poem that touches
yoursoul... St Francis of Assisi's
prayer that goes,

'Where there is hatred, let me sow love'.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm some over-the-top Mr Ego. The guy you see on TV is fiction. He's a character I play, but when I get home I'm just David. He's sensitive, emotional and has always been a gentleman.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Singing on the Berlin Wall to a million people on New Year's Eve 1989. My song Looking For Freedom had been picked up by the people of Germany and it inadvertently made me part of history.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd tear up all my divorce papers so I could stop paying alimony. Before I even get out of bed I have to clear \$50,000 [£33,000] every month just to break even!

The song that means most to you... One I recorded called This Time Around. It's about making mistakes and learning from them.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions...

I'd start the day with my daughters, Taylor-Ann, 25, and Hayley, 23, at Hippo Point wildlife sanctuary in Kenya, where I'd have a full English breakfast. We'd hop down to South Africa to scuba dive during the sardine run - whales and sharks gobble up zillions of them in a feeding frenzy – then I'd follow wildebeest migrating across the continent. I'd meet my girlfriend Hayley in Venice, where we'd float down the Grand Canal in a nice boat and have a delicious meal overlooking the city – I'd go for simple pasta with garlic and oil and a veal chop. Then I'd take her to the Waldhaus Flims mountain resort in Switzerland. We'd visit the vodka and caviar bar - but no vodka for me! - and then sit in a Jacuzzi outside as snow falls on our faces.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Being in the musical Jekyll & Hyde on Broadway in 2000 was wonderful. I'd dreamt of performing there since I was eight and had finally realised it at 48. I saw Mum and Dad in the front row and thought, 'This is the culmination of all those singing and dancing lessons they took me to.'

17 OCTOBER

The saddest time that shook your world... The day in 2006 when I had to tell my girls that their mum [Pamela Bach] and I couldn't go on, that the best thing for us was that we divorce. I felt like a failure. I'd got close to the perfect life, but it all fell apart.

'I'm not some over-the-top Mr Ego. David Hasselhoff is fiction. At home I'm just David and he's sensitive, emotional, a gentleman'

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I'd like to make a really cool, serious film, with Woody Allen directing.

The philosophy that underpins your life... You have one life. You should eat it or it will eat you.

The order of service at your funeral... I want my casket to be open in the church and for an electronic device to set off a personalised message from me as each person files by! Everyone would be allowed a selfie with me, just so long as they're smiling. And I

want a big party with an open bar. The way you want to be remembered...

A great guy with an amazing heart who had good morals, a great sense of humour and a passion for life.

The Plug... The Hoff is touring in the musical Last Night A DJ Saved My Life until 13 February; for tickets visit lastnightadj.com. Season two of his TV series Hoff The Record begins on Dave in January. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Kimberley Walsh stars in family musical Elf at London's Dominion

Theatre from next Saturday. Ryan Reynolds takes a road trip through America's Deep South in Mississippi Grind – in cinemas

Friday. And Andrea Bocelli's new album Cinema is out the same day

NEXT WEEK

 Sanjeev Bhaskar takes us backstage on gripping new crime drama Unforgotten

> Warming one-pot family meals for chilly autumn nights

Britain's best TV listings

86 weekend

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