

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's F1 pundit Eddie Jordan's turn



The prized possession you value above all others... My Dolan racing bike. It only weighs six kilos and is beautiful to ride. They cost about £11,000, but Terry Dolan, who owns the company, is a friend, so it cost me half that. I love cycling and I ride about 200 miles a week.

The temptation you wish you could resist... I'm easily tempted, especially when it comes to sweets, cake and alcohol. Above all, I love a Snickers bar.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... I love autobiographies by big, complex characters. The one I enjoyed recently was David Coulthard's *It Is What It Is*. Everyone thinks he's clean-cut and straight, but DC's actually a complete lunatic, which is why I love him.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd have piggybacked on Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner when he jumped from space.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Lateness. Unless there's a valid reason, it's the height of rudeness.

Right: Paul Newman and Robert Redford in *The Sting*. Above right: a drum kit. Far right: Monaco

The biggest regret you wish you could amend...

That I'm not a drummer in a top rock band. I started drumming at 13 – now I play in my group Eddie & The Robbers, so I get to live part of the dream.

The person who has influenced you most...

My mum Eileen was everything to me. She was a strong Irish woman who had a tough upbringing and she gave me the belief that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Her spirit was legendary. She died in 2006 aged 93.

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

The Sting with Paul Newman and Robert Redford. I love scams and everyone in Formula 1 likes to get one over on the other guy.

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

Oscar Wilde. I'd like to know how he coped with being hounded for his sexuality. He'd be a hero in the modern era and hilarious company.



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

I got it from my mum, who instilled a strong work ethic in me.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I love putting on a tux and watching opera. I adore the singing, the music and the extremes of drama. *La Bohème* is my favourite.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The hearing in my left ear. A lifetime of racing engines has left me totally deaf in it.

The unending quest that drives you on... I try to cram as many things as possible into every day.

The poem that touches your soul... It's a song, *The Green Fields Of France* by The Fureys. It's about a man looking at the grave of a lad who died in WWI.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm Bernie Ecclestone or former F1 driver Eddie Irvine. I get called one or the other all the time, but I'm just happy people remember I'm in motorsport!

The event that altered the course of your life and character...

Breaking my leg while kart racing when I was 21. I was only karting in my spare time, but after the accident I knew I'd never find true satisfaction if I didn't give racing a proper go. [Eddie raced from 1974-79 and set up his own team in 1980.]

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal all F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone's money just to see the look on his face when he realised it was gone!

The song that means most to you... Satisfaction by The Rolling Stones. It always gets people to dance.

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

I'd have eggs and bacon at La Brasserie in South Kensington, then take a chopper to Zermatt in Switzerland and ski with my old pals. Lunch would be at Le Club 55 in St Tropez with my wife Marie and our kids Zoe, 35, Miki, 32, Zak, 29, and Killer, 26 – his real name is Kyle, but everyone calls him Killer.

'I love putting on a tux and watching an opera. I adore the singing, the music and the extremes of drama'

We'd have cudités followed by poached salmon and rosé wine. I'd then cycle up the Col de Madone mountain route in France and later sail in a regatta off Corsica. The evening would begin with Thai green chicken curry at Brinkley's in Chelsea before watching the football team thrash Barcelona. I'd end the night with Marie at our home in Monaco.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Playing the drums to Maggie May with Rod Stewart and Ronnie Wood at a posh charity dinner 15 years ago. It was an amazing feeling.

The saddest time that shook your world... John Lennon's murder numbed me. It was a brutally unfair tragedy.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To speak French, Italian and Spanish. All I've got is Irish!

The philosophy that underpins your life... Our family motto is FTB – F*** The Begrudgers! They're the people who begrudge others' success. When Zoe got married in 2010, her brothers and I got FTB tattooed on our wrists.

The order of service at your funeral... I'll leave a massive budget for a party. I want the hymn *Iona*, *The Lonesome Boatman* by The Fureys and my ashes scattered over Dublin Bay.

The way you want to be remembered... As someone who lived life to the full.

The Plug... Eddie Jordan is part of the BBC's F1 line-up. Watch the final race of the season live from Abu Dhabi tomorrow from 12.10pm on BBC1. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

James McAvoy and Daniel Radcliffe star in Victor Frankenstein

– in cinemas from Thursday. *Jim Broadbent is Scrooge in A Christmas Carol* at London's Noel Coward Theatre from Monday.

And *Coldplay's new album A Head Full Of Dreams* is out Friday



NEXT WEEK

- Philip Glenister on his role in compelling ITV thriller *Prey*
- Rachel Khoo serves up the most delicious festive party food
- Monty Don on the magic of mistletoe
- Britain's best TV listings