

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week: TV and radio presenter **Anneka Rice**



'I had laser surgery on my eyes last year and it's actually made my sight worse. The world's a blur now'

in Hong Kong in my 20s. I'd track down a lovely family I knew back then and we'd all have a wonderful reunion party on the beach. Later, Pink Floyd would re-form to play a special concert. In the evening we'd moor in the harbour at Hong Kong and I'd take the family round the places I love. We'd have cocktails before sailing off into the night across the South China Sea.

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** Summer holidays on the Isle of Wight when all the kids were younger, with extended family and dear friends gathered for big noisy suppers and games. Life has never got better than that.

**The saddest time that shook your world...** The death of my best friend Flea. I'd known her since I was six and she knew me better than anyone. We even coordinated having our children within weeks of each other. She was in her early 30s when she died tragically.

**The philosophy that underpins your life...** When in doubt go to bed!

**The order of service at your funeral...** I don't want to know, so I'd hand this over to my kids. My sister and I have done stonking farewells to our parents, so they have a good template to go on. No pressure then!

**The way you want to be remembered...** Quietly, by those who love me.

**The Plug...** Anneka presents the BBC Radio 2 Breakfast Show on Saturdays from 6-8am at 88-91 FM ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



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**The prized possession you value above all others...** The diaries I wrote daily from age eight to 16. They instantly take me back to my life in the 60s and 70s.

**The biggest regret you wish you could amend...** I've always been the breadwinner in my relationships so I'd like to try being a kept woman for a while.

**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...** I was inspired by the What Katy Did books by Susan Coolidge. I loved Katy's dysfunctional family.

**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day...** I would swim naked in the sea, and do normal things and enjoy not being recognised. It would be liberating because I've been in the public eye since I was 20.

**The pet hate that makes your hackles rise...** Lights being left on, whether at home or by shops and businesses. I am very 'eco' and all waste distresses me.

**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...** I'm an obsessive painter of walls and furniture. I'm always changing the look of my house in London. I have a downstairs loo that's like a mood board!

Right: David Bowie. Above right: paint. Far right: Bali

**The film you can watch time and time again...** I've never really enjoyed films, for a bizarre reason – as a girl I felt uneasy in the cinema.

**The person who has influenced you most...** My mother. She was clever and independent, but women of her era were up against a glass ceiling, which made her so unhappy. Her frustration drove me to make something of my life. She died two years ago.

**The temptation you wish you could resist...** Cake, especially Victoria sponge with jam and cream.

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...** You're unique. Never try to be somebody else.

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...** Getting the chance to read the news for a TV station in Hong Kong when I was 19. I was working behind the scenes when the newsreader called in sick and I said I'd do it. I was terrified, but it changed the course of my career.



**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...** My

20-20 vision. I'm 57 and I've always had great eyesight. I only needed

+1 lenses for reading until I had laser surgery last year. It's actually made my sight worse – the world's a blur now and I've been told it may take six months for the treatment to work properly.

**The unending quest that drives you on...** The next challenge. I have a default kamikaze setting that always makes me say yes, no matter how ridiculous the idea!

**The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint...** I'd do work experience with Michelangelo and help him pick out his stone from a marble quarry in Carrara, Tuscany, then watch him transform it into a sculpture.

**The poem that touches your soul...** Somewhat Unravelling by Jo Shapcott. It's about her auntie and is full of love.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** To organise my vast archive of letters, photos and videos from my life. My dream is for someone to digitise it all for me.



## PS...

Robert Downey Jr and Scarlett Johansson team up in *Captain America: Civil War* – in cinemas Friday. Brian Eno's new album *The Ship* is out on the same day, and after a two-year tour *Hamlet* returns to Shakespeare's Globe this evening



## NEXT WEEK

- The Hairy Bikers dish up their new 30-minute low-calorie recipes
- Adrian Lester takes us behind the scenes on his tense thriller *Undercover*
- PLUS Britain's most detailed TV listings