The Definite Article

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: actor and comedian Angus Deayton

The prized possession you value above all others... George Best’s table place card from a party hosted by David and Victoria Beckham in 2002. I’m a big Man Utd fan and I chatted to George there. He invited me to a party at his house and he wrote his address on the back of the card. The party never happened, then he died in 2005, but the card is framed and sits on my desk.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... That I’ve never lived abroad. I always fancied the idea of being an expat in Italy or France.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... I quite like ‘chick lit’, and I was engrossed by the characters in David Nicholl’s novel One Day.

The song that means most to you... When my daughter was born, I had The Lion King soundtrack on repeat. ‘Circle of Life’ is one of my shows to ‘cry to’. The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.

The poem that touches your soul... ‘I may be 60, but I still love pop music, listen to Radio 1 and go to festivals like Glastonbury. People think it’s odd...’

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That my surname is pronounced ‘Dayton’, instead of the correct way, ‘Deeton’. People still get it wrong all the time.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... When my sketch show KYTV was commissioned by BBC2 in 1988 after I’d been doing radio for nearly a decade. After that, everything really kicked off.

The film you can watch time and time again... The Legend Of Tarzan with Alexander Skarsgard swings into cinemas on Friday. Alan Ayckbourn’s How The Other Half Loves comes to London’s Duke of York’s Theatre on Thursday.

And Carole King performs at London’s Hyde Park tomorrow.

PS...

The Legend Of Tarzan with Alexander Skarsgard swings into cinemas on Friday. Alan Ayckbourn’s How The Other Half Loves comes to London’s Duke of York’s Theatre on Thursday.

And Carole King performs at London’s Hyde Park tomorrow.

NEXT WEEK

● Don’t miss our brilliant new four-part series – classic recipes from legendary British cook Elizabeth David
● Colin Morgan on spooky new series The Living And The Dead
● Britain’s best TV listings

Anderson; afterwards, as always, we’d all go for a curry. I’d end the day back at home in north London watching the Italian mafia TV drama Gomorrah.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Telling Isaac two years ago that he’d got a scholarship to his secondary school. I was a very proud dad.

The saddest time that shook your world... Losing my parents – Roger, who died in 2012 aged 94, and Susan, who died last year aged 92. They’d had long lives, but it was still very sad.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To score in Robbie Williams’ Soccer Aid match. I’ve played twice, but no longer get the call.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Everything is for the best in this, the best of all possible worlds. Voltaire wrote it in Candide and it reflects my own optimistic approach to life.

The way you want to be remembered... He could have played for Man Utd!

The Plug... Angus Deayton’s sketch show Radio Active is on at The Pleasance during Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 3-28 August. Visit edfringe.com. As told to Rob McGibbon