

# The DEFINITE ARTICLE

*We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's TV presenter Gloria Hunniford*

**The prized possession you value above all others...** My 12 albums and drawers full of old family photos. They're the keys to my precious memories and are irreplaceable.

**The biggest regret you wish you could amend...** Never learning to play the piano. I'd love to be able to play at parties with everyone singing along.

**The temptation you wish you could resist...** Spoiling my Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Gemma and Roxy. I make a fuss of them and give them titbits from the table, which I shouldn't.

**The book that holds an everlasting resonance...** The Power Of Now by Eckhart Tolle, which was so special to my daughter Caron during her seven-year fight against breast cancer [Caron tragically died aged 41 in April 2004]. It helped her to live in the moment.



**The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day...** I'd reset the computers that regulate London's traffic lights. So many are timed badly and cause unnecessary hold-ups.

**The pet hate that makes your hackles rise...** People wearing rucksacks who turn around and smack you in the face. They don't seem to be aware what they have on their backs.

**The film you can watch time and time again...** Breakfast At Tiffany's from 1961. I first saw it in Belfast when I was in my early 20s and I wanted to be Audrey Hepburn.

**The person who has influenced you most...** My father, Charles, who was talented at so many things. He taught me you can do anything if you want it badly enough. He died in 1979 aged 70, but I still hear him inside my head.

**The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint...** Oscar Wilde – he was such a marvellous, flamboyant character, who fought convention. He'd be such witty company.

**The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child...** If something bad happens, do your best to fix it, but if it's beyond your control, let it go and move on.

Left: Oscar Wilde. Above: an assortment of teapots. Far right: Mullins Beach in Barbados



'People think I'm laid-back but I'm impatient. I'd drive on the hard shoulder in a jam if I could get away with it'

**The happiest moment you will cherish forever...** Being at the births of Caron's boys Charlie and Gabriel, and Paul's son Jake.

**The saddest time that shook your world...** Without question, Caron's death. To lose your child is the worst thing that can happen to a parent. I think about her hundreds of times a day.

**The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you...** To become super-fit. There's always an excuse not to.

**The philosophy that underpins your life...** Helping is part of my healing and I do this through the Caron Keating Foundation, which supports people suffering from all forms of cancer.

**The order of service at your funeral...** I want a big send-off with everyone welcome at St Peter's Church in Hever, Kent. I'd like Cliff Richard to say a few words – I've known him for 45 years and he has such strength in his beliefs. Then I want to be buried next to Caron in the church's graveyard.

**The way you want to be remembered...** I talk a lot, so maybe the best epitaph is: 'There are no more words. Phew!'

**The Plug...** Gloria presents Rip Off Britain on Monday at 9.15am on BBC1. Visit the Caron Keating Foundation at caronkeating.org. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



**The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity...** Teapots. I have about 30 that I've collected over the years.

**The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again...** A handbag that was stolen from my car in London in 1987. It contained some of my mother's jewellery, the wedding and engagement rings from my first marriage and a special fountain pen.

**The unending quest that drives you on...** Keeping busy with work. I have a saying – 'If I don't move, I'll rust'.

**The poem that touches your soul...** Sometimes by Frank Brown sums up the pain you feel when you lose someone, but it also makes you feel positive. I put it in a frame after Caron died to help me through the darkest days.

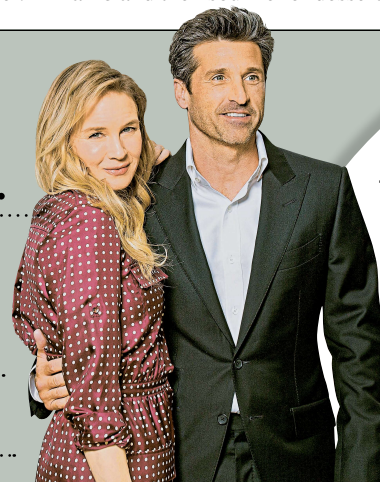
**The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase...** That I'm laid-back. I'm actually very impatient.

**The event that altered the course of your life and character...** The day Caron, who was only in her 30s, was diagnosed with cancer. I couldn't believe it could happen to my vibrant daughter.

## PS...

*See Renée Zellweger in Bridget Jones's Baby from Friday.*

*Led Zeppelin's Complete BBC Sessions album is out the same day. And Ben Jonson's The Alchemist has its opening night at London's Barbican Theatre on Wednesday*



## NEXT WEEK

- Mouthwatering recipes from the new series of The Great British Bake-Off
- Robbie Coltrane on his new role as a national treasure accused of sex crimes
- PLUS Britain's biggest and best TV listings guide