

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's Olympic gymnast Louis Smith's turn

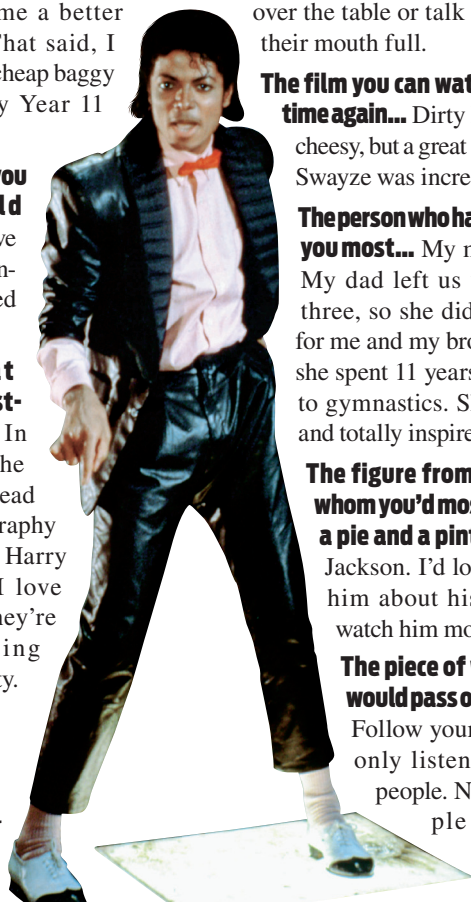
The prized possession you value above all others... My MBE, which was presented to me by the Queen in 2013. It's the award that cements everything else I've won in my life. As she gave it to me the Queen said, 'Here's another one for your collection.' She also said she'd heard I'd done well in Strictly.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I try not to live with regret and just learn from mistakes to hopefully become a better human being. That said, I regret wearing a cheap baggy white suit to my Year 11 prom aged 15!

The temptation you wish you could resist... I don't have an addictive personality – I never need to overindulge.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... In my entire life, the only books I've read are my autobiography and the first five Harry Potter novels. I love them because they're such an amazing escape from reality.

Right: Michael Jackson. Above right: an MBE. Far right: skydiving



The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd find a certain man who torments me and haunt him until he thinks he's going crazy. I can't say any more, but he knows who he is.

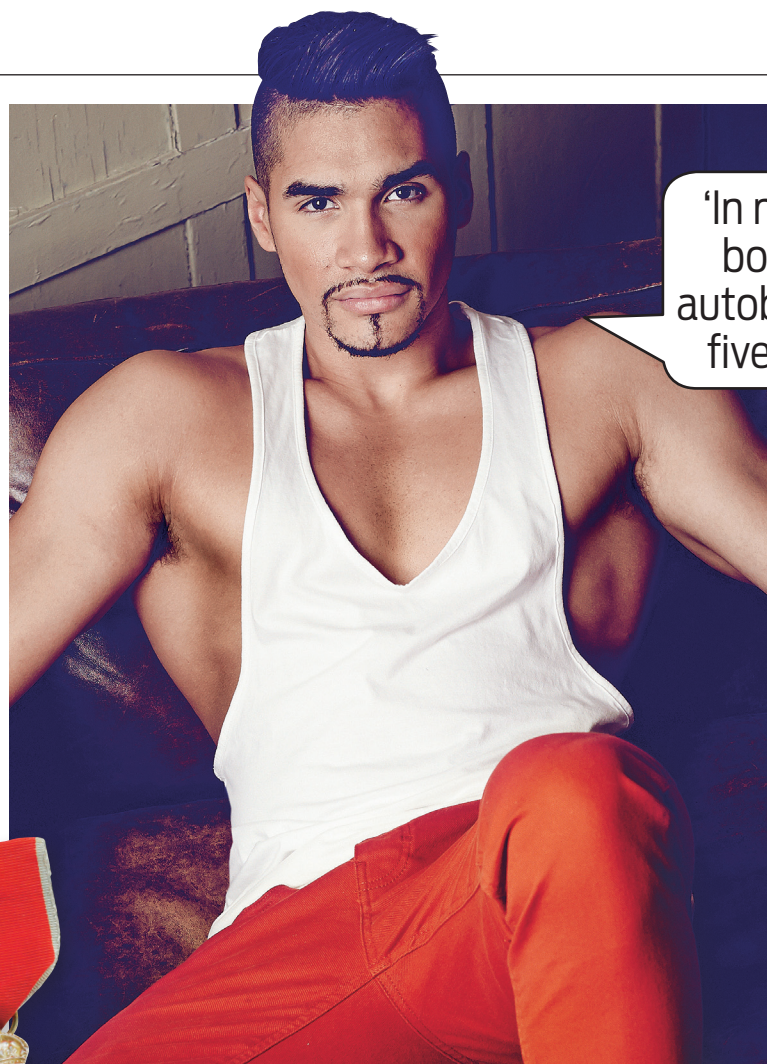
The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Bad table manners. I can't stand it when people have their elbows all over the table or talk with their mouth full.

The film you can watch time and time again... Dirty Dancing. It's cheesy, but a great story. Patrick Swayze was incredible.

The person who has influenced you most... My mum Elaine. My dad left us when I was three, so she did everything for me and my brother Leon – she spent 11 years driving me to gymnastics. She's selfless and totally inspires me.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Michael Jackson. I'd love to talk to him about his life – and watch him moonwalk.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Follow your dream, but only listen to positive people. Negative people will drag you back.



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Goblet Of Fire. Lunch would be tempura prawns and barbecued meat with beers. I'd swim in the afternoon, then read some more before having a gin cocktail. Then I'd have fresh fish in a Thai curry sauce for dinner with good red wine. I'd relax under the stars and be ready to face the world the next day.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... A surprise 25th birthday party my ex-girlfriend Lucy laid on at a restaurant in London. All my best friends were there. It was such a wonderful shock I burst into tears!

The saddest time that shook your world... The death of my nan, Dilys. She died from blood poisoning following an operation in 2009 when she was 87. I never got the chance to say goodbye to her properly.

The philosophy that underpins your life... 'What I deserve I earn' is tattooed on my back. Everything that happens in life comes from hard work.

The order of service at your funeral... The idea of it petrifies me. But I'd definitely want it to be upbeat, so people could come into church to some reggae, then listen to some beautiful choral music and positive readings.

The way you want to be remembered... He worked hard and left his mark, not just in sport.

The Plug... Louis appears in the 1950s-themed dance tour Rip It Up from 4 Sept-22 Oct. For tickets visit ripituptheshow.com or ticketmaster.co.uk. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Space and physics. I find subjects like Einstein's theory of relativity and the solar system endlessly fascinating.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... The ability to sleep. I'm lucky if I get three or four hours a night, I often get none at all.

The unending quest that drives you on... To leave a big empire to my children so they can inherit it all and not have to struggle like my family did.

The poem that touches your soul... I connect with the saying, 'I work hard for my last name, not my first name.' I heard a US music producer say it. It's about building something worthwhile.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... People who meet me often say, 'I thought you'd be a total idiot, Louis, but you're all right.' Olympians are put on pedestals but every now and then I want to behave like a bit of an idiot.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I fancy doing a skydive, but only if it's 100 per cent safe.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Strictly Come Dancing took me out of my comfort zone, helped me be more confident and gave a new dimension to my career.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd blackmail President Trump into giving me classified files about the Nevada air base Area 51, rumoured to hold UFOs.

The song that means most to you... Michael Jackson's Smooth Criminal always makes me want to dance, even if I'm stone-cold sober.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd spend the day on my own private beach in Thailand. My life is very busy, so I'd be happy chilling out with just a chef, a waiter and a barman for company. There'd be no technology and no one looking at me saying, "Is that him?" Breakfast would be avocado on toast, followed by poached eggs with tomato salsa and iced water. I'd then sit on the beach reading Harry Potter And The



PS...

Cara Delevingne stars in Valerian And The City Of A Thousand Planets – in cinemas Wednesday. Billie Piper is Yerma at London's Young Vic from tonight. And Texas's tour continues at CarFest North festival on Cheshire's Bolesworth Estate tomorrow



NEXT WEEK

● The full story behind the implosion of Diana's marriage – plus more astonishing unseen photographs – in part two of our unmissable series ● Britain's most detailed TV listings guide