

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's TV presenter and *Strictly* winner Ore Oduba

The prized possession you value above all others... A photo of me with my wife Portia the day before our wedding in 2015. We're hugging and excited. I keep it in my wallet to remind me of what really matters – just us.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... That I didn't make a full video of the entire day of the *Strictly* final. It was such a crazy day and to experience it all again would be a dream.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Freshly baked cheese twists. – terribly fattening but delicious.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... I don't read these days, but I'm obsessed with television.

The priority activity if you were the invisible man for a day... I'm fascinated by David Beckham, so I'd spend it watching him.

The person who has influenced you most... My mum Fola. She instilled principles in me such as consideration for others and hard work. She's also responsible for my mild OCD with tidiness because us kids had to do all the chores.

The film you can watch time and time again... *The Secret Of My Success* with Michael J Fox is a classic, we watched it at home all the time when I was young. But I saw *Singin' In The Rain* for the first time recently and that's my new favourite, it's mesmerising. I danced to the title track on *Strictly*.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People who suddenly stop walking in a busy street, usually tourists or people on their phone. It's inconsiderate.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I'm fascinated by American television. I watch rubbish shows late into the night.

Left: a scene from musical *Singin' In The Rain*. Above: Nutella waffles and Belgian beer. Right: Sir Philip Green's superyacht, *Lionheart*



'Cynics said the tears I shed on *Strictly* were fake. They weren't – I'm in touch with my emotions'



The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Sir Bruce Forsyth. He'd retired before I went on *Strictly*, so I never met him. He was astonishing. I'd like to talk about the golden age of entertainment.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Treat others as you wish to be treated. That was the motto at my school when I was six.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A computer hard drive stolen in a burglary from our house in 2015. It had ten years' worth of photographs and files, so it was like losing part of my life.

The unending quest that drives you on... Portia is due to give birth in the new year, and nothing motivates me more than to provide for, protect and give opportunities to my family.

The poem that touches your soul... *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou, as read by Serena Williams. I heard her read it when I was covering Wimbledon last year and it was stunning.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... Some cynics have said the tears I shed during *Strictly* were fake. They weren't. I'm in touch with my emotions and the *Strictly* experience was remarkable.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Getting a day's work experience at BBC South Today in Southampton when I was 17. I'm 32 now and that was my first step on the broadcasting ladder – I loved it.

The song that means most to you... *Tenerife Sea* by Ed Sheeran. It was the first dance at our wedding.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal Sir Philip Green's superyacht, *Lionheart*, and take the BHS staff on a cruise.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... Portia and I would watch the sunrise in Phuket, Thailand, where we honeymooned, then have breakfast on a balcony overlooking the ocean – I'd have ome-

lette with dim sum. Then we'd check into Atlantis, The Palm hotel in Dubai and relax in the pool. After that we'd head to Brussels for Nutella waffles and a walk around town sampling Belgian beers. We'd go to Broadway to watch *Chicago*, then for dinner at my mum's in Dorset for her special lasagne. Afterwards we'd head to my in-laws' house to sleep and wake up to Christmas day.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... The day I proposed to Portia in front of her family in 2014. I'd been planning it for three months and it couldn't have gone better.

The saddest time that shook your world... When my best friend's mum died of cancer a few years ago. She was only 50, we were all devastated.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To be the best dad I possibly can be.

The philosophy that underpins your life... You're only as good as the people around you. That goes for work and in my personal life.

The order of service at your funeral... I've joked I wouldn't mind going out to the *Strictly* theme tune.

The way you want to be remembered... The guy who gave great hugs.

The Plug... Ore Oduba is sitting in for Claudia Winkleman on BBC Radio 2 every Sunday evening, 7-9pm, until 17 December. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Julia Roberts stars in uplifting tearjerker *Wonder* – in cinemas from Friday. The Rolling Stones' album *On Air*, full of BBC recordings from the 60s, is out the same day. And Rhys Ifans opens in *A Christmas Carol* at London's Old Vic on Wednesday



NEXT WEEK

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