The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: historian Simon Schama, co-host of Civilisations

The prized possession you value above all others... Locks of hair from my two children (Chloe, 35, and Gabriel, 32) when they were toddlers. I keep them in a 19th-century mahogany box, as beautiful mementos of when they were untouched by hardness in life.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I never learnt to ride a bike. I have tried in adult life, but I fall off.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Adjectives. I use them too generously.

The priority activity if you were the invisible Man for a day... Baseball. I first went in 1980 to Fenway Park to watch the Boston Red Sox and I’m still a fan.

The film you can watch time and time again... Singin’ In The Rain. My mum [Gertie] and dad were wannabe performers and sang songs from it together, often at breakfast, so it brings back happy memories.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Mark Twain. I adore the bite of his language and his wit.

Kate Winslet is a scorned 1950s housewife in Wonder Wheel, in cinemas Friday. Only Human, the debut album from Calum Scott, is out the same day. And Rory Kinnear opens in Macbeth at London’s National Theatre on Tuesday.