The Definite Article
We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: former Westlife singer Kian Egan

The prized possession you value above all others… My home in Sligo, Ireland. My dad, Kevin. He died in 2009 from a brain tumour, and it’s only since I was diagnosed with a brain tumour myself.

The temptation you wish you could resist… I’m a control freak, so it would be good to let go of a few things.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity… I’m really into photographing nature. I like getting up before dawn to photograph the sunrise.

The figure from history for whom you’d like to hang out with Jimi Hendrix at his peak to get a flavour of that crazy rock star life. The Endless Summer.

The unending quest that drives you on… Life is all about freedom and adventure.

The poem that touches your soul… “The Endless Summer” by David Hornsby. I entered lots of poetry-reciting competitions as a child and I always performed that poem. I won about 15 competitions with it.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend… Telling Simon Cowell he was wrong! He said it would be a mistake for Westlife to release Hey Whatever in 2003. I fought so hard that he let us do it, but it only got to No.4, our lowest chart position. After that he said, ‘From now on you do exactly what I tell you!’

The priority activity if you were the President of the United States, Plastic Surgery. I’d glued a shattered mirror onto it so it would look great in the stage lights. It was probably stolen.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you… To catch a barrel wave. I was elated when I saw a barrel wave while I was surfing in Barbados.

The treasured item you lost and wish to a child and I always performed that poem. I won about 15 competitions with it.

The event that altered the course of your life and character… My dad’s death made me focus on life and what it means. He was only 64.

The song that means most to you… I was friends for five years before we started going out. I remember playing her that song in 2003 and then we got together. It’s become our song.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever… Playing Croke Park in Dublin for Westlife’s 10th anniversary in 2008. I got the whole crowd to sing Happy Birthday to my dad.

The way you want to be remembered… To catch a barrel wave. I was elated when I saw a barrel wave while I was surfing in Barbados.

The saddest time that shook your world… When my dad died. It breaks my heart that he never saw my son.

The way you want to be remembered… As a caring son, husband and father. The Plug… Kian’s debut solo album Home is out on Monday. For more information visit www.kianegan.tv.

As told to Rob McGibbon

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Koa on my surfboard so he can feel the waves, then I’d cook a barbecue for my friends and family on Coney Island, which is just off the coast. In the afternoon I’d crash out at the Coral Reef Club on the west coast of Barbados, then take out some paddle boards with Jodi. Then we’d zoom over to Paris and go to the Pont de l’Archevêché bridge to fasten a padlock then throw the key in the Seine as a symbol of our love. Dinner would be at Nobu in Waikiki, Hawaii. I’d have black cod, popcorn shrimp, ragú of beef and Japanese beer. Later we’d hang out at a surfer’s shack bar love in Barbados and drink Mount Gay Extra Old rum on the rocks. I’d sleep at home in Ireland.

The philosophy that underpins your life… Be thankful for what you have. The order of service at your funeral… I’d have a Catholic service at Sligo Cathedral with a string quartet and uillean pipes [Irish bagpipes] and an acoustic version of the Foo Fighters’ song My Hero. I may want to transport my dad in a cathedral in Sligo, or I may have my ashes scattered at sea.

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The biggest mistake I ever made was telling Simon Cowell he was wrong…