The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s actor Richard E Grant’s turn

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I’m haunted by the moment a doctor told my father, Henrik, that he only had months to live after he was diagnosed with brain cancer. To witness his absolute loss of hope was devastating.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Eating Christmas puddings once a month throughout the year. I stockpile them in the January sales.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Alice In Wonderland, which I’ve returned to time and time again...

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... My first daughter was born at 27 weeks and only lived for half an hour. You can never get over the loss of a child, you and only lived for half an hour. You can never get over the loss of a child, you

The poem that touches your soul... The Hollow Men by TS Eliot. It’s deeply moving.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Getting the part of Withnail in Withnail And I in 1986. If Daniel Day-Lewis had accepted it when offered, I wouldn’t be answering these questions now!

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... I'm not ready to go... The way you want to be remembered...

The prize possession you value above all others... My Pelham Puppets. I had a marionette theatre in my parents’ garage in Swaziland, where I grew up. I have 40 now and keep buying more.

The priority activity if you were the British sensibility with sublime imaginative leaps and droll wit.

The philosophy that underpins your life... My father instilled in me that heaven and hell are to be found here on earth and that you only get one chance to believe that I’d make it as an actor.

The person who has influenced you most... Joan Washington. We began a relationship when I was 12 when he stepped onto the moon in 1969 and hearing his voice from space on the radio made me want to be an astronaut. I’d love to hear every detail of his trip.

The treasured item you lost and wish it could be returned... My father’s death at the age of 52 when I was 24. Although he was an alcoholic I remember his charm and provocative sense of humour most.

The happiest time that shook your life... The final day of filming my autobiographical film Wah-Wah in the Mkhaya game reserve in 2004 when a family of elephants appeared. It happened just as the film ran out.

The saddest time that shook your life... My father's death at the age of 52 when I was 24. Although he was an alcoholic I remember his charm and provocative sense of humour most.

The happy moment you will cherish forever... The Plug... Richard E Grant’s 7 Deadly Sins is on Fridays, 9pm, Discovery Channel. Discover his fragrance at jackperfume.co.uk.

The order of service at your funeral...

The here and now is... The philosophy that underpins your life... I'm not ready to go yet!

The way you want to be remembered...

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As told to Rob McGibbon


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Next week

- The four Britain’s Got Talent judges tell us why the new series will be more bonkers than ever
- Tom Kerridge serves up the perfect Easter feast
- PLUS Britain’s biggest and best TV listings guide

Naomi Watts and Ben Stiller star in comedy While We’re Young, in cinemas from Friday. Emma Thompson returns to her role as Mrs Lovett in Sweeney Todd at The London Coliseum from Monday.

And Olly Murs starts his UK tour in Sheffield on Tuesday