We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: Riverdance creator Michael Flatley

The prized possession you value above all others... A first edition of James Joyce’s Ulysses from 1922 with illustrations by Henri Matisse. It’s signed by both me and I keep it in the library at Castle Hyde, my home in County Cork.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not marrying my wife Niamh 20 years ago! We met in 1993 when she was in Riverdance. Our wedding in 2006 was one of the happiest days of my life.

The happiest moment you will cherish for ever... Dancing in my show Feet Of Flames at New York’s Madison Square Garden in 2000. It was thrilling to be on the stage where so many heroes, such as Muhammad Ali, had performed.

The person who has influenced you most... My father Michael Flatley taught me self-discipline, hard work and integrity. He died in March aged 88 and I miss him terribly. He was my hero.

The poem that touches your soul... The last page of Ulysses is like the finest poetry. It’s timeless and elegant and I’ve memorised all the words.

The unending quest that drives you on... To do something of greatness that makes the world a little bit better.

The film you can watch time and time again... The Mission with Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons is stunningly shot and has the best soundtrack ever.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Meditations by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. So much of what he wrote is still relevant today.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d stay at home looking in the mirror – it’d make a nice change from what I normally see!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People who drive slowly in the fast lane on the motorway.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I’d spend all day with Niamh and our son Michael St James, who’s seven. Breakfast would be on the balcony of the Hotel Splendido in Portofino, Italy. Coffee for me and two croissants with melted chocolate. Then a Mangusta 130 yacht would power us along the Amalfi Coast – where we’d walk through Ravello – then to Monte Carlo for lunch at Le Louis XV restaurant at the Hotel de Paris. I’d have risotto with fresh truffles and some Château d’Yquem 1947. After that we’d go dancing in New York at a place I always keep secret. We’d dance to Fly Me To The Moon by Frank Sinatra.

The saddest time that shook your world... My father’s passing. It shook me deeply. The hardest thing I’ve ever done was deliver the eulogy.

The misapprehension about yourself that continues to haunt you... To have my new paintings accepted by the art world. My first exhibition is in London in June.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I’m a flautist too and I collect antique wooden flutes. I have about 50 and I like nothing more than mixing a perfect martini and playing a couple of them.

The order of service at your funeral... There and throw your best punch.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Don’t resist – cut yourself some slack and enjoy life.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... To break into Rome’s Colosseum at night and dance my heart out would be incredible.

The philosophy that underpins your life... As someone who gave every last drop of energy on stage to make people happy. The philosophy that underpins your life... When the bell rings, get out there and throw your best punch.

The philosophy that underpins your life... As someone who gave every last drop of energy on stage to make people happy. The philosophy that underpins your life... As someone who gave every last drop of energy on stage to make people happy.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To break into Rome’s Colosseum at night and dance my heart out would be incredible.

The poem that touches your soul... The last page of Ulysses is like the finest poetry. It’s timeless and elegant and I’ve memorised all the words.

The unending quest that drives you on... To do something of greatness that makes the world a little bit better.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... To break into Rome’s Colosseum at night and dance my heart out would be incredible.

The misapprehension about yourself that continues to haunt you... To have my new paintings accepted by the art world. My first exhibition is in London in June.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I’m a flautist too and I collect antique wooden flutes. I have about 50 and I like nothing more than mixing a perfect martini and playing a couple of them.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I’d spend all day with Niamh and our son Michael St James, who’s seven. Breakfast would be on the balcony of the Hotel Splendido in Portofino, Italy. Coffee for me and two croissants with melted chocolate. Then a Mangusta 130 yacht would power us along the Amalfi Coast – where we’d walk through Ravello – then to Monte Carlo for lunch at Le Louis XV restaurant at the Hotel de Paris. I’d have risotto with fresh truffles and some Château d’Yquem 1947. After that we’d go dancing in New York at a place I always keep secret. We’d dance to Fly Me To The Moon by Frank Sinatra.

The saddest time that shook your world... My father’s passing. It shook me deeply. The hardest thing I’ve ever done was deliver the eulogy.

The philosophy that underpins your life... As someone who gave every last drop of energy on stage to make people happy. The philosophy that underpins your life... As someone who gave every last drop of energy on stage to make people happy.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To break into Rome’s Colosseum at night and dance my heart out would be incredible.

The poem that touches your soul... The last page of Ulysses is like the finest poetry. It’s timeless and elegant and I’ve memorised all the words.

The unending quest that drives you on... To do something of greatness that makes the world a little bit better.