We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s choreographer Arlene Phillips

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity… "I’ve been collecting children’s antique sewing machines for 25 years – I’ve got about 70 now.”

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you… "To leave a financial legacy to my children’s antique sewing machines for 25 years and I have about 70 now."

The unending quest that drives you… "I’d visit the Savoy Hotel in Moscow, then have an evening with a fabulous fruit cocktail at the Hotel Cipriani, The Side Story, a piano, From top: West Side Story, a piano, a fruit cocktail, the Hotel Cipriani, the Bolshoi’s Swan Lake, Little Women, a child’s sewing machine, Duran Duran, birthday cake ice cream from the Marble Slab Creamery, and Elton John.

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend… "Being so strict with my daughter Alana [now 33]. I was too demanding about homework, extra lessons – everything. Children need freedom to grow and not have such a firm hand restricting their development."

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions… "Breakfast with my husband Angus at the Hotel Cipriani in Venice, then off to New York for a shopping spree at Bloomingdale’s – with no spending limit! After lunch at a fish restaurant at Double Bay in Sydney with Alana and my other daughter Abi. I’d begin the evening with a fabulous fruit cocktail at the Savoy hotel in Moscow, then have sushi before watching the Bolshoi Ballet do Swan Lake. I’d end the day with Angus at the George V hotel in Paris."

The temptation you wish you could resist… "Ice cream from the Marble Slab Creamery in Toronto. They have the most amazing varieties – I like birthday cake flavour with rainbow sprinkles."

The book that holds an everlasting resonance… "Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. I’ve read it 100 times and it’s taught me so much about families and relationships."

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day… "I’d visit hospitals to check the elderly are being cared for properly. I get so upset when old people are mistreated."

The person who has influenced you most… "My mother, who was so generous, kind and gentle. I’ve always wanted to be like her, but I don’t think I’ve managed to do it."

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint… "Fred Astaire. I’d ask him where the inspiration for his dancing came from."

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again… "A Tiffany pen given to me by the Australian film director Russell Mulcahy in the 1980s."

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