

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week it's Olympic diver Tom Daley's turn

The prized possession you value above all others... My iPhone. I travel a lot, so I'm always chatting to or texting my family, as well posting on social media. My phone keeps me close to everyone.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... I wish I'd paid more attention to learning the components of a dive when I was younger. I'd be a better athlete now if I hadn't developed bad habits.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone was the first proper book I read as a kid. I loved the escapism and I was pretty freaked out by Professor Quirrell – but I like scary stuff.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd hang out with the Queen. It'd be brilliant to find out what she eats, what she wears and what she watches on TV.

The pet that makes your hackles rise... When I see a person walking past someone who needs help. That person could be your grandparent.

Right: Ian Hart as Professor Quirrell in Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone. Above right: cheesecake. Far right: orangutans



The temptation you wish you could resist... Cheesecake! I have such a sweet tooth, which isn't great when you do a sport that requires you to be light and springy!

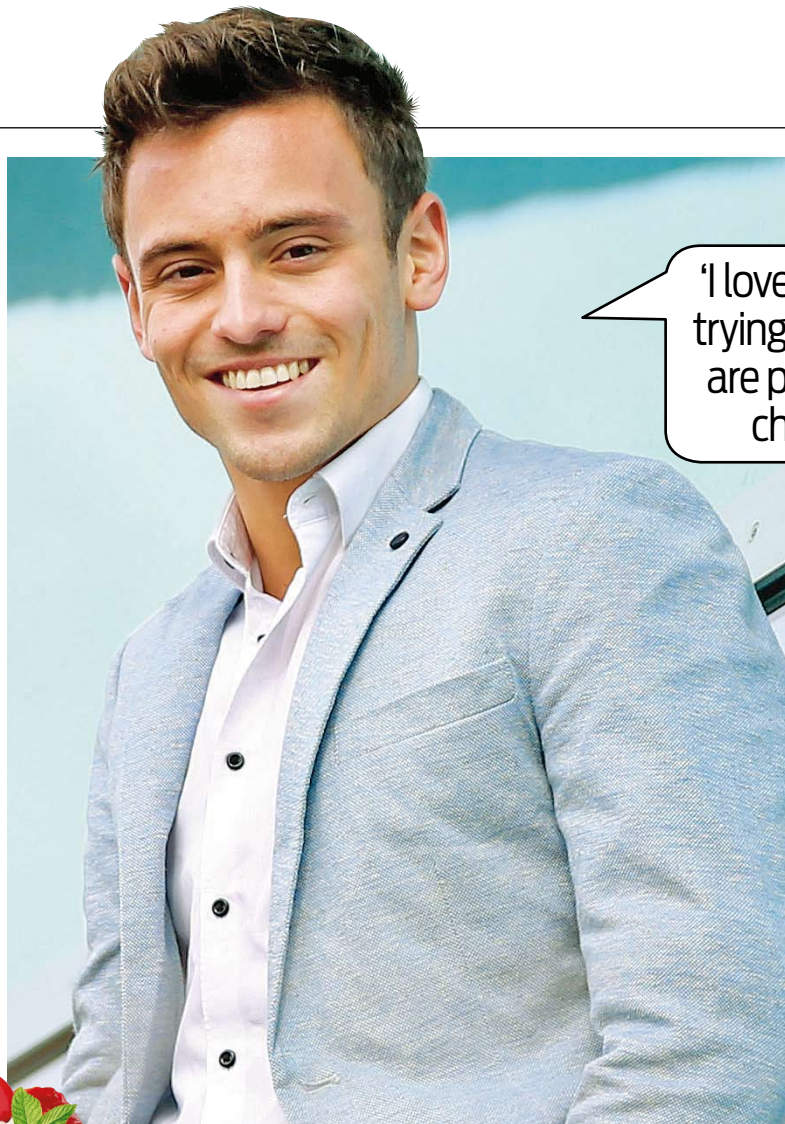
The film you can watch time and time again... Jaws. I watched it loads of times at school and it started my fascination with sharks. The music is amazing and I love the attack scenes.

The person who has influenced you most... My dad Rob. He died from brain cancer in 2011 when he was 40. I wouldn't be the diver I am without the support he gave me and I now raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Henry VIII. I'd ask which wife he loved the most.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... If you have aspirations, do everything you can to realise them.

The unending quest that drives you on... To win an Olympic gold medal.



'I love cooking and I'm always trying new recipes. My burgers are pretty impressive – I add cheese and a fried egg'



The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Cooking. I'm always trying new recipes, especially puddings. My burgers are pretty impressive. I add cheese, avocado, lettuce, onions, tomato and a fried egg.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My monkey. He was a cuddly toy my parents gave me when I was nine to bring luck. He went everywhere with me, but I lost him in 2005. I was convinced I'd have bad luck forever – but the following day London won the Olympic bid.

The poem that touches your soul... I'm not into poetry, but I love the National Anthem. There's no prouder feeling than hearing it on the rostrum.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm a swimmer! No matter what I do, people call me a swimmer. I'm a diver.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... My dad's passing. I had to grow up and it made me determined to work even harder to make him proud.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd steal a secret recipe from one of the world's best chocolatiers. I love chocolate.

The song that means most to you... Peaceful Easy Feeling by The Eagles because it was one of Dad's favourite songs. I remember him playing it in the car as we drove to Cornwall for our family summer holidays.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd start the day in the Maldives with my partner Lance and a group of friends and family. We'd have breakfast by the ocean, including pancakes with fresh fruit and syrup. I'd go snorkelling and feed tropical fish, then I'd teleport to South Africa to do white-water rafting and go down in a cage to see great white sharks. Lunch would be in a mountaintop restaurant in the Alps. I'd have beef Wellington followed by lots of ice cream, then I'd zip over to Borneo to meet some baby orangutans. I'd also squeeze in a trip to Busch Gardens in Florida for a ride on Falcon's Fury – a vertical 335ft drop. Dinner would be a barbecue on the beach in Australia with meat and seafood and cold Diet Cokes. I'd end the day chill-

ing out with Lance in Norway watching the Northern Lights.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Winning Olympic bronze in front of a home crowd in 2012.

The saddest time that shook your world... When Dad died. Nothing can prepare you for how it feels. Losing him has made me not take anything for granted any more.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To be fluent in Spanish! I studied it for A-Level and I still have lessons but I need to spend some proper time in Spain.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Everyone should chase their dreams and make them a reality.

The order of service at your funeral... I'd like everyone to share stories and not be sad. Celebrate with plenty of drink, dancing – and unlimited ice cream!

The way you want to be remembered... As one of the world's best-ever divers who worked hard for his success.

The Plug... Tom competes in the FINA Diving World Championships on 1-2 August. Coverage live on the BBC Red Button, highlights on BBC2. Visit thebraintumourcharity.org. ■

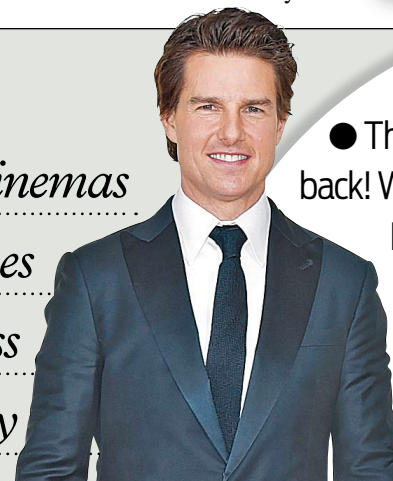
As told to Rob McGibbon



PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY, SHUTTERSTOCK, ALAMY, REX

PS...

Tom Cruise returns in *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation*, in cinemas Thursday. Tackling themes of war, loss and trauma, *For Services Rendered* is at Chichester Festival Theatre from Friday. And Joss Stone's new album, *Water For Your Soul*, is out on the same day



NEXT WEEK

● The Great British Bake Off is back! We talk to the stars ● Jessica Raine shares secrets from the set of *Partners In Crime* ● Monty Don on the magic of fennel ● PLUS Britain's best TV listings