The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Dumping a girlfriend when I was at university so I could go out with one of her best friends. I went out with the new girl for five years but found out she’d been having an affair with my best mate for three of them! The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I’d start the day with a walk around an empty and joggy St Mark’s Square in Venice with my wife Katie. We’d go skiing in Cervinia in Italy, then shopping in Manhattan, stopping at a New York deli for a sandwich. The kids would join us on a beach in Thailand, then I’d go scuba diving. We’d watch the sunset over Ayers Rock in Australia, then Katie and I would go back to New York for a Broadway show. I’d end the day with the family on a boat on the Doubtful Sound fjord in the South Island of New Zealand, drinking a local bottle of Villa Maria sauvignon blanc. The temptation you wish you could resist... Cheese and pickle sandwiches with crusty bread. They’re so fattening. The book that holds an everlasting resonance... A Prayer For Owen Meany by John Irving. It’s about the absence of a mother, so I really connect with it. The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I’d wander around MI6 headquarters in London listening to all the secret meetings. The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Wilful stupidity. I can’t stand people who take pride in ignorance. The film you can watch time and time again... The Blues Brothers from 1980. John Belushi was a big hero in my teens and I love him in that film. The person who has influenced you most... The comedian Dave Allen [who died in 2007]. He came to see me at the Edinburgh Festival 20 years ago. We had dinner afterwards and he complemented my act. That spurred me on. The figure from history whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... The Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. He died just before the Russian Revolution, so it would be fascinating to know what he thought of Russia today. The unending quest that drives you... To perform the perfect gig where you ad-lib a lot with a great audience. The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Always listen to people, you might learn something – even if it’s where to find a good chip shop! The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Motorbikes. I go to MotoGP races and love watching these courageous guys ride lethal machines. The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... My Suzuki DR650 motorbike, which was stolen when I was 29. It was my pride and joy.

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: comedian and actor Alan Davies

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