We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s the turn of singer Sophie Ellis-Bextor

The prized possession you value above all others… A Blythe Doll from 1972. She has an oversized head with big eyes. I bought her for £300 on eBay 15 years ago – she’s worth £800 now.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend… Not going to the funeral of a girl at school who died suddenly from a heart problem when we were 18. Loads of other girls went and I should have too.

The film you can watch time and time again… Grease. I first watched it when I was seven and loved it. I remember when Kenickie says his condem has broken I asked my mum what that was. She said, ‘A medal he got for sports!’

The temptation you wish you could resist… I’m addicted to eBay. I think – I’m buying treasures, but other people might describe them as junk!

The book that holds an everlasting resonance… The Tiger Who Came To Tea by Judith Kerr. We’d see the beautiful countryside, then have a stir-fry with chicken and almond filo pie. Visit prettypolly.co.uk. The Plug…

The priority activity if you were on stage during a big West End show to watch the actors up close.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child… Trust your instincts.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity…Taxidermy! I’m fascinated by anatomy. I want to do a course to learn to stuff a mouse – but only if it died naturally!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise… When people say, ‘I’m going to give 110 per cent.’ Above 100 per cent doesn’t exist.

The person who has influenced you most… My parents. My dad Robin took me to my first gig when I was eight – to see Pink Floyd at Earls Court. Mum is a very optimistic person who taught me to look for the positives in life.

The opportunity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day… I’d stand on stage during a big West End show to watch the actors up close.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint… The 19th-century American poet Emily Dickinson. I’d ask about the inspiration for her work, but she was a recluse so I doubt she’d want to see me.

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again… Dick Van Dyke’s autobiography. I got it on a trip to New York aged 14. The box I kept it in went missing during a house move.

The unending quest that drives you on… Writing the next song.

The song that means most to you… Groovejet in 2000. It was a success and it changed everything.

The biggest regret you wish you could undo again… My heart problem when we were 18. Loads of other girls went and I should have too.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase… That I always look perfect. People are surprised if they see a ladder in my tights, but while I’m often styled for TV, away from it I’m much more relaxed.

The event that altered the course of your life and character… Releasing my song Groovejet in 2000. It was a success and it changed everything. The unending quest that drives you on… Writing the next song.

The way you want to be remembered… Cherish your relationships with friends and family. The order of service at your funeral… I’d like Chopin’s Prelude in D Minor played and for my ashes to be scattered somewhere near the Thames.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever… When I launched my last album Wanderlust last year. It was a big step because the work was so different and it was my first album not released by a major record label.

The saddest time that shook your world… My grandfather, Mike, dying in December last year. He was 83 and died from pneumonia. I miss him.

The philosophy that underpins your life… Cherish your relationships with friends and family.

NEXT WEEK

Jennifer Aniston shows her serious side in Cake, in cinemas Friday. The deeply moving story of The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas is touring from Thursday, starting at Chichester Festival Theatre. And The Script begin their UK tour in Glasgow the same day.

On the set of Jimmy McGovern’s new penal colony series Banished

● From plot to plate – Raymond Blanc on our favourite veggies

● Anne Shooter’s fabulous chicken and almond filo pie

● Britain’s best TV listings guide