The prized possession you value above all others... My three-year-old dog Maude. She’s half lurcher, half Parson Jack Russell and travels with me a lot when I’m on a theatre tour.

The unqualified regret you wish you could amend... Saying mean and catty things. It makes me feel queasy.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I’d start the day with a platter of tropical fruit by the volcanic Boiling Lake in Dominica with my daughter Mary [28, whose father is actor Bill Nighy] and all my nearest and dearest. We’d have a dip in the Emerald Pool, then fly by helicopter to the Sierra mountains in Ecuador to go skiing. I’d go for lunch in Rome and have fish with champagne risotto and a chocolate desert. After, I’d walk around the Hermitage museum in St Petersburg, then head back to my cottage in Suffolk and cook dinner for my family with a few bottles of Dom Perignon champagne.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Procrastination. It would save me a lot of hassle if I could stop saying, ‘Oh I’ll do that tomorrow’.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... French Provincial Cooking by Elizabeth David, which a boyfriend gave me when I was 19. It gave me the cooking skills that I still use.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I’d eavesdrop on the homeless and see what I could do to help them.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Bad driving. I succumb to road rage myself when I see people in cars behaving obnoxiously. I’m filled with a spontaneous, implacable fury.

The film you can watch time and time again... The Spirit Of The Beehive, a Spanish film from 1973. It’s about a girl who befriends a fugitive after the Spanish Civil war. It conjures up the figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Brian Patten, one of the great Liverpool poets of the 60s. It’s about death and it particularly resonates with me now because I’ve reached that age, 66, when people close to me have started to die.

The person who has influenced you the most... Mary Davies, who was my English and drama teacher from when I was 13 to 17. She inspired my love for acting. Sadly, she died a few years ago.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... Catherine the Great. I’d ask her about her most like to buy a pie and a pint... Maria Callas, the great opera diva. I’d ask her about her

from top: The Emerald Pool in Dominica, Chekhov’s The Seagull, Catherine the Great, a Tiffany gift box, Marvin Gaye, Dom Perignon, The Spirit Of The Beehive, tropical fruit and flamenco dancing

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s the turn of actress Diana Quick

The philosophy that underpins your life... Try to live each day as if it is the only one. Be here now.

The order of service at your funeral... I’m not religious and all I definitely want is for them to play Listen To The Lion by Van Morrison and scatter my ashes somewhere in Suffolk.

The way you want to be remembered... As someone who could be trusted. The Plug... Diana appears in The American Plan - first play in the 2013 Ustinov Studio season - at Bath’s Theatre Royal, from Thursday until 6 April. www.theatreroyal.org.uk/ustinov

As told to Rob McGibbon

PS...

Rachel Weisz casts a spell as a witch in Oz The Great And Powerful, in cinemas from Friday. Mystery play The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time is at London’s Apollo Theatre. And Listen to Dido’s new album, Girl Who Got Away, out Monday

I love to dance flamenco and salsa – if I’m in a shop and hear music I have to stop myself moving to it

The philosophy that underpins your life... Try tolive each day as if it is the only one. Be here now.

The order of service at your funeral... I’m not religious and all I definitely want is for them to play Listen To The Lion by Van Morrison and scatter my ashes somewhere in Suffolk.

The way you want to be remembered... As someone who could be trusted. The Plug... Diana appears in The American Plan - first play in the 2013 Ustinov Studio season - at Bath’s Theatre Royal, from Thursday until 6 April. www.theatreroyal.org.uk/ustinov

As told to Rob McGibbon

NEXT WEEK

• All your favourites are back, including Monty Halls, The Day That Changed My Life, On Set With Alphabet Quiz • Serve up a mouth-watering Mother’s Day brunch • Plus Britain’s best and most comprehensive TV listings

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it’s the turn of actress Diana Quick

The philosophy that underpins your life... Try to live each day as if it is the only one. Be here now.

The order of service at your funeral... I’m not religious and all I definitely want is for them to play Listen To The Lion by Van Morrison and scatter my ashes somewhere in Suffolk.

The way you want to be remembered... As someone who could be trusted. The Plug... Diana appears in The American Plan - first play in the 2013 Ustinov Studio season - at Bath’s Theatre Royal, from Thursday until 6 April. www.theatreroyal.org.uk/ustinov

As told to Rob McGibbon

NEXT WEEK

• All your favourites are back, including Monty Halls, The Day That Changed My Life, On Set With Alphabet Quiz • Serve up a mouth-watering Mother’s Day brunch • Plus Britain’s best and most comprehensive TV listings