

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week it's This Morning's Ruth Langsford

The prized possession you value above all others... My father Dennis's Rolex Oyster watch, which he bought in 1964. He wore it until he died in 2011 aged 84.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Dying my hair black. I did it six years ago for a change and I looked like a witch. Never again!

The temptation you wish you could resist... My husband Eamonn Holmes. It sounds cheesy, but it's true. I get angry with him, but then he makes me laugh.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning by Laurie Lee, about walking from Gloucestershire to London. It reminds me of people's inherent kindness.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Woman for a day... I'd have a good old rummage around the Beckhams' house in London.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... People spitting in the street. They should be shot!

The film you can watch time and time again... Frankie & Johnny with Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer. It's a wonderful love story and I like a happy ending.

Right: Fred Astaire. Above right: a Christmas tree. Far right: Raffles Hotel in Singapore



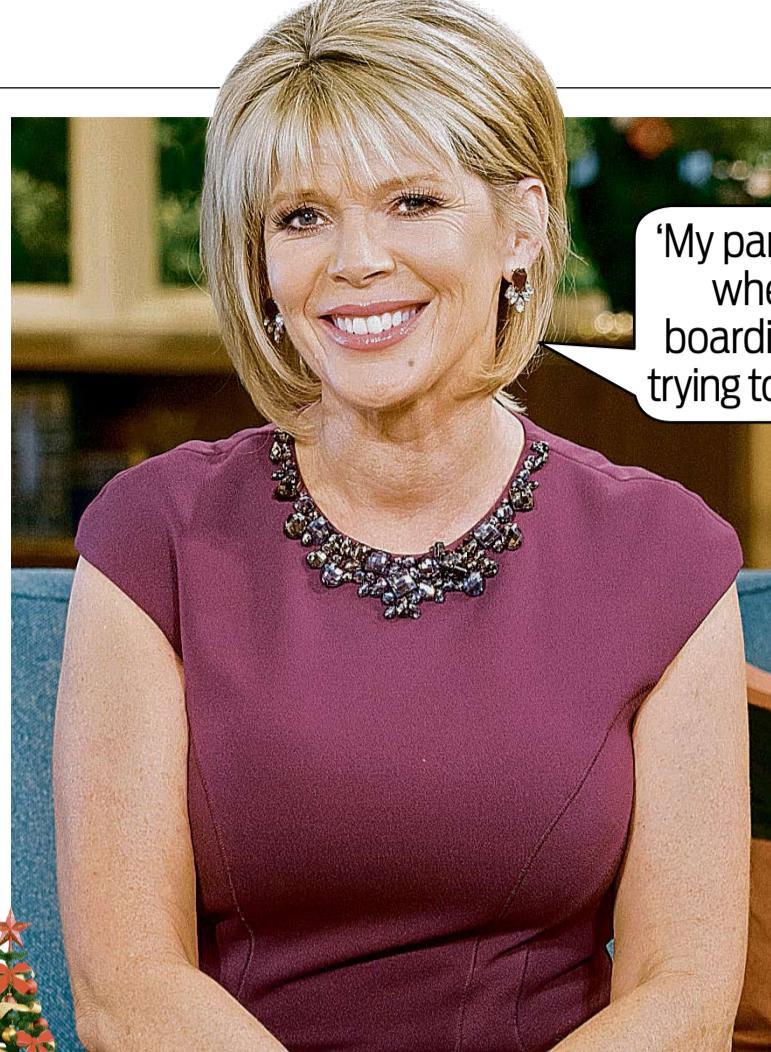
The person who has influenced you most... The presenter Ian Stirling was a great mentor when I was starting out in TV in my 20s. He took me under his wing and taught me not to be scared of live TV. Sadly he died ten years ago.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Fred Astaire. I love dancing – I'm gutted they've never asked me to do Strictly! – and Fred was the best. I'd ask if he really liked Ginger Rogers.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Life's not fair – but it's good! My mum Joan, who's 83, always said that when I whinged.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... I'm obsessed with Christmas – I get it from my dad. I'm a control freak at decorating the tree!

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A bear called Ted that Dad bought for me when we moved to Libya when I was five. Dad was in the Army and was stationed there. Ted vanished at boarding school when I was 15.



'My parents were disappointed when I messed about at boarding school and I've been trying to make up for it ever since'

Katie, 31, to a matinée in the West End, followed by a cream tea with the family at The Savoy. In the evening Eamonn and I would have cocktails at the Corinthia Hotel, near Whitehall, then head home for a quiet evening in Surrey. The day would end in my fabulous bed.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Getting our rescue dog Maggie four years ago. She's a crossbreed and looks like a little black fox. I wasn't sure about getting a dog, but she's brought so much happiness.

The saddest time that shook your world... The day Dad died in February 2011. I thought I was prepared for it because he'd been ill with Alzheimer's for ten years, but it hit me badly.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To play a piece of classical music on the piano. I had lessons at school so maybe I'll go back to it.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Honesty is the best policy. Besides, I'm a terrible liar.

The order of service at your funeral... I'm claustrophobic so I'll be cremated. As the coffin goes behind the curtain, I want them to play Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye by Ella Fitzgerald, which Dad used to play to Mum on the piano.

The way you want to be remembered... As the best friend you could ever have.

The Plug... Ruth supports the Heinz and Royal Voluntary Service campaign to encourage people to help the elderly this winter. royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk. ■

As told to Rob McGibbon



PHOTOGRAPHS: REX, ALAMY

PS...

Michael Fassbender plays the late founder of computer giant Apple in Steve Jobs – in cinemas from Friday. Dawn French's live show 30 Million Minutes previews from Wednesday at London's Vaudeville Theatre. And Justin Bieber's new album Purpose is out on Friday



NEXT WEEK

- Mackenzie Crook on series two of his sitcom *Detectorists*
- Fantastic fuss-free food with our traybake recipes
- Monty Don on why this autumn's foliage is so glorious
- Britain's best TV listings