

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

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



'I'm not some over-the-top Mr Ego. David Hasselhoff is fiction. At home I'm just David and he's sensitive, emotional, a gentleman'

The prized possession you value above all others... My father Joseph's wedding ring. It's dated 4 June 1946, when he married my mum Dolores. They had a lifetime of love and laughter together. Mum died in 2009 and Dad last year.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Never going down on one knee to ask someone to marry me without the feeling I was cornered into it. I've been divorced twice and both marriages began with a kind of ultimatum.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Kicking against the word 'no'. When I hear that, it activates an alarm bell in me that says, 'Do it!'

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Sammy Davis Jr's autobiography Yes I Can. I tell young people who want to get into showbusiness to read it because what he did was amazing.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd go to Syria and annihilate everyone involved in ISIS.

The person who has influenced you most... My father. I got my outgoing behaviour from him

Right: Sammy Davis Jr. Above right: a cat. Far right: Venice

and my sense of humour, which is probably my greatest asset.

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... I love cats but their hair gets up my nose.

The film you can watch time and time again... It's A Wonderful Life. Jimmy Stewart is the most honest actor I've seen.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... The 18th-century American founding father Benjamin Franklin – a creator, writer, inventor and amazing adventurer who foresaw the future.

The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... See it, believe it, live it. If you can visualise your future and follow your dreams and your talent, then what you want will come true.

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... To find out what women really say about men!

The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... Youth! I'm 63, but in my head I'm 25 and still rockin' and rollin'.

The unending quest that drives you on... Adventure. I'm always hungry for whatever's around the next corner.



The poem that touches your soul... St Francis of Assisi's prayer that goes, 'Where there is hatred, let me sow love'.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm some over-the-top Mr Ego. The guy you see on TV is fiction. He's a character I play, but when I get home I'm just David. He's sensitive, emotional and has always been a gentleman.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Singing on the Berlin Wall to a million people on New Year's Eve 1989. My song Looking For Freedom had been picked up by the people of Germany and it inadvertently made me part of history.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd tear up all my divorce papers so I could stop paying alimony. Before I even get out of bed I have to clear \$50,000 [£33,000] every month just to break even!

The song that means most to you... One I recorded called This Time Around. It's about making mistakes and learning from them.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd start the day with my daughters, Taylor-Ann, 25, and Hayley, 23, at Hippo Point wildlife sanctuary in Kenya, where I'd have a full English breakfast. We'd hop down to South Africa to scuba dive during the sardine run – whales and sharks gobble up zillions of them in a feeding frenzy – then I'd follow wildebeest migrating across the continent. I'd meet my girlfriend Hayley in Venice, where we'd float down the Grand Canal in a nice boat and have a delicious meal overlooking the city – I'd go for simple pasta with garlic and oil and a veal chop. Then I'd take her to the Waldhaus Flims mountain resort in Switzerland. We'd visit the vodka and caviar bar – but no vodka for me! – and then sit in a Jacuzzi outside as snow falls on our faces.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Being in the musical Jekyll & Hyde on Broadway in 2000 was wonderful. I'd dreamt of performing there since I was eight and had finally realised it at 48. I saw Mum and Dad in the front row and thought, 'This is the culmination of all those singing and dancing lessons they took me to.'



PHOTOGRAPHS: NEAL HAVNES; REX FEATURES; GETTY; ALAMY

PS...

Kimberley Walsh stars in family musical *Elf* at London's Dominion

Theatre from next Saturday. Ryan Reynolds takes a road trip

through America's Deep South in *Mississippi Grind* – in cinemas

Friday. And Andrea Bocelli's new album *Cinema* is out the same day



NEXT WEEK

- Sanjeev Bhaskar takes us backstage on gripping new crime drama *Unforgotten*
- Warming one-pot family meals for chilly autumn nights
- Britain's best TV listings