

Q

Questionnaire

Welcome to the questionnaire that's harder than going downstairs for a treble 19 but never quite as unpleasant as Jim Davidson. Would this month's entrant pop his clothes off and hop on the couch . . .



BILLY BRAGG

What's the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning?

Go back to sleep.

What was the first gig you went to?

Alvin Lee at the Dagenham Roundhouse circa 1973.

Which song do you wish you had written?

Raglan Road by Patrick Kavanagh.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

There are two things that can get you into real trouble: your dick and your signature.

What is your most treasured material possession?

A miner's safety lamp given to me by the South Wales NUM in 1985.

Who did you last sleep with?

Who do you think you are? Paula Yates? Mind your own business.

What do you think of Bob Dylan?

He is the new Burl Ives.

When did you last cry?

At the end of Mary Poppins. Because she went away.

What characteristics do you think you've inherited from your parents?

From my mother a fierce independence and from my father a strong sense of history.

What's the biggest myth about fame?

That it makes you omnipotent. It doesn't. It just allows you to magnify your worst characteristics so you feel that you can get away with anything.

What are you like when you're drunk?

Maudlin, moving swiftly to ill.

Who would you have play you in a film?

Sean Penn.

Pick five words that describe yourself.

Impatient, stoic, outgoing, emotional, smartarse.

Is there one piece of criticism that sticks in your mind?

The heckler who accused me of not taking seriously enough my "role" as politically correct spokesperson.

Do you believe in God?

I think so.

What is your most unpleasant characteristic?

I'm grumpy first thing in the morning.

What is your greatest fear?

Flying.

What ambitions do you still have to fulfil?

I still have to get the full set of American Civil War bubblegum cards.

Are you afraid of failure?

No. I think that runaway success can be more destructive.

What do you never leave home without?

I never go on any journey without something to read.

Who are your best male and female friends?

Wiggy, Juliet Wills.

Who would you most like to meet?

A visionary leader of the Labour party.

What music would you have played at your funeral?

Jerusalem by William Blake.

When you look in the mirror, do you like what you see?

No. I've never fancied myself as a "looker".

Do you have anything to declare?

No. I always sneak through the green channel.