

Oliver Stone often poses big questions in his fiery, polemical films—and the forthcoming *Heaven and Earth* is no exception. This month NELL SCOVELL turns the tables and asks the controversial director to take a stab at *V.F.*'s Proust Questionnaire



**What is your idea of perfect happiness?** Enlightenment, spiritual peace.

**When and where were you happiest?** Along the way, many times.

**What is your greatest fear?** Cancer of the groin, castration, torture.

**What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?** Cowardice, arrogance, pretentiousness.

**Which historical figure do you most identify with?** Alexander the Great.

**What is the trait you most deplore in others?** Criticism of others without empathy; the need to conform.

**Which living person do you most admire?** Thich Nhat Hanh [Vietnamese Buddhist monk, poet, and scholar].

**Which living person do you most despise?** The demon in me; also general ass-sucks, ideologues, and control freaks in politics and the media.

**What do you most dislike about your appearance?** My face on a bad day; generally, decay and my waist.

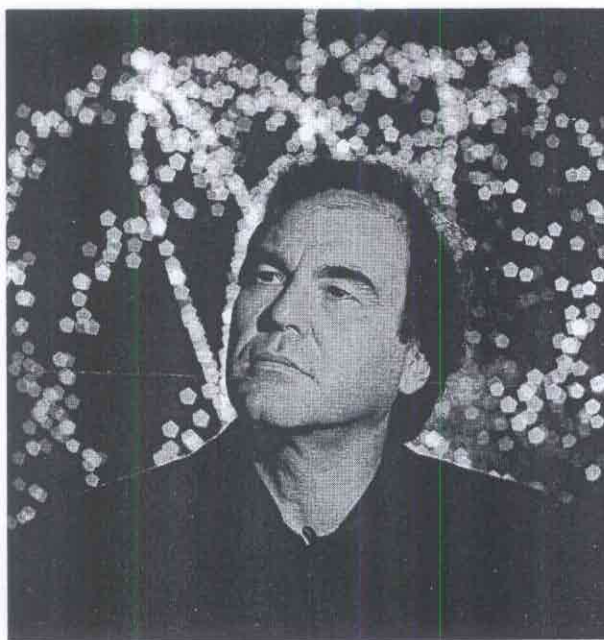
**What is your greatest regret?** The things I never did.

**What is your greatest extravagance?** Sexual desire.

**If you could change one thing about your family, what would it be?** Raise a red lantern.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?** Forthcoming—but if not, *JFK*, *Platoon*, *Born on the Fourth of July*.

**What is your current state of mind?** Preposterous, insane, no idea what happens next.



**What are your most treasured possessions?** Sean, Mikey, Alexander, Jung—words, a brain, etc.

**What do you most value in your friends?** Compassion, ability to stay up late.

**What is the quality you most like in a person?** Rebellion, justice, love.

**What is your favorite occupation?** Writing, directing, and editing movies; least favorite is releasing them.

**What is your most marked characteristic?** Defiance.

**Where would you like to live?** Between heaven and earth.

**What is your favorite journey?** Inner.

**Who are your heroes?** Mom, Dad, environmentalists, healers, artists.

**What is it that you most dislike?** Government, pundits, the media.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?** Disease, ignorance leading to evil acts.

**If you could choose how to come back, how would it be?** Not to, but if I must, a tortured beggar in Calcutta.

**How would you like to die?** In the arms of a loved one.

**What or who is the greatest love of your life?** Pallas Athena, Lord Buddha.

**What is your motto?** "To kiss the lips of women, love the gods, do justice, laugh, and know the world is mad."

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?** My reputation; if not, a penile implant.