

A QUESTION OF CULTURE

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Last book you read? Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything is Illuminated*. It made an impact, not least because it initially reads as comic fiction but suddenly turns, in a horrifying way, to atrocities that took place in World War II.

Favourite book? *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. My mother read it to me as a child and I have returned to it ever since.

Best advice on writing you've ever heard? Wittgenstein: "Everything that can be said can be said clearly."

Favourite film? Carne's *Les Enfants du Paradis*. It has a dream-like quality which creates a mesmerising flow.

Last film you saw and loved? Truffaut's *Le Dernier Métro*. It's stunningly multi-layered.

Last film you saw and hated? I vaguely remember the torture of some rom-com I was dragged to — I just wasn't that into it.

Favourite TV show? I have this show in my head that is hosted by Dylan Moran, stars the entire cast of *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and a few strays from *The Sopranos*, is scripted by Matt Groening, and revised by Trey Parker and Matt Stone.

Favourite radio show or presenter? I always know I'm back home when I hear Donald Helme.

Favourite city/country? "Second to the right, and straight on till morning" — Never Never Land. It's always within a dreamer's reach.

Cultural blindspot? The architectural vacuity of certain shopping centres. They remind me of a temporary lavatory.

Gwendolyn Masin is the author of Michaela's Music House.

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