

THE APPROVAL MATRIX

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hier



HIGHBROW

Kent Twitchell's enormous L.A. outdoor mural, *Ed Ruscha Monument*, is **painted over without notice**.



The strange, cynical, high-decibel circus that is **Ann Coulter**.

Once again, a nation **politely ignores the Tonys**.

And **Bill Weld fades away**.

An HBO-BBC miniseries about the tsunami, filming in Thailand, **recruits extras to play corpses** by distributing flyers saying "Victims needed."



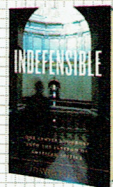
The Scripps spelling bee **draws dismal ratings for ABC**.

Les Mis is back. Whatever doesn't kill it makes it stronger.



Summer street fairs with endlessly identical booths: smoothies, sock vendors, roast-corn roasters. Repeat.

John Irving nominates *The Cider House Rules* in the *Times* poll of the best novel of the past 25 years.



David Feige's **Indefensible**, about the surreal life of a Bronx public defender.

Vocalist **Theo Bleckmann** and pianist **Fumio Yasuda** present thrillingly original takes on standards at Joe's Pub.

At a Charleston performance, Bill T. Jones demands that a boo-bird explain himself. The man replies, "**I think it was a cliché disguised not very cleverly as third-rate art.**"



Lily Tomlin and Meryl Streep put on a clinic in *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Eartha Kitt at the Carlyle.



Deadwood returns.



The World Cup.



DESPICABLE

The Moscow Cats Theatre. You can't teach an old cat new tricks. Or any tricks, apparently.



The deluge of **former-assistant confessional chick-lit:** Next, a novel from a disgruntled ReganBooks editor.



Firewall, now on DVD.

Gnarls Barkley **delete their single "Crazy,"** refusing to issue new copies in the U.K. because it's too popular (nine weeks at No. 1).



Jay Leno monologues on iTunes. An all-you-can-listen-to buffet of Dick Cheney-hunting jokes.

Entourage creator **Doug Ellin** crafts a **fake résumé for Johnny Drama**, including such credits as "Building Inspector" on 227.



The weird and wonderful **New York Asian Film Festival**, June 16 to July 1.

Dave Chappelle's Block Party, now on DVD.

The **insta-covers of "Crazy"** by Ray LaMontagne and Nelly Furtado.



Title of the week: the bluegrass Van Halen tribute **Strummin' With the Devil**.



Minnesota's **Tapes 'n Tapes** play two great shows at Bowery Ballroom.

MTV's **The Hills**. Already more loathsome than *Laguna Beach*, and it's only two episodes in.

Quizno's finally, mercifully **ethanizes that annoying Baby Bob**.



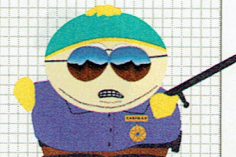
Paris Hilton, **reggae queen**.



Underappreciated horror auteur Rob Zombie (*The Devil's Rejects*) is hired to direct the next Halloween.



The fantastically tawdry, consistently shocking, American-TV-trumping BBC soap **Footballers' Wives**.



South Park wins a Peabody.

LOWBROW

BRILLIANT

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