



The Approval Matrix: Week of May 31, 2010

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.

Published May 23, 2010

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HIGHBROW



Woody Allen speaks out on behalf of Roman Polanski.



London's Olympic mascots.



T. Ryder Smith's virtuosic triple turn as Queen Elizabeth, Adolf Hitler, and Ronald Reagan in Sarah Ruhl's Passion Play at the Irondale Center.

Physicists may have had a breakthrough in the quest to figure out why the universe is composed of matter and not anti-matter. Suck it, anti-matter!

Another moralizing Republican congressman resigns after an affair; this one, shockingly, slept with a woman.



The oil spill is heading for Florida and the Atlantic Ocean ...



... meanwhile, BP is testing a water-cleaning device that Kevin Costner paid to have developed after the Exxon Valdez disaster. We knew he'd come through!



The strange but ultimately inspired use of Phish as interstitial music in Annie Baker's The Aliens at the Rattlestick Theatre.

Lincoln Center's swoopy new sky-lawn is open for lounging.



So are the laws (some steep enough to roll down!) at Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park.



Jeggings for men. We've actually seen this.

A restaurant called Traif (i.e., "unkosher"), featuring a pig as its logo, opens on the edge of Hasidic Williamsburg.



Spike Lee promotes "Absolut Brooklyn" vodka; it's to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, and yet...



Seen on 22nd Street, near Fifth Avenue.



Annette Bening gives the year's most tragic and funniest performance in Mother and Child.

DESPICABLE

BRILLIANT

Parks and Recreation won't premiere till mid-season next fall.



Russell Crowe plays Robin Hood as Russell Crowe as a hung-over jerk.

Improv Everywhere sends "Ghostbusters" into the NYPL 42nd Street reading room. Is that really a prank? No one thought they were actual Ghostbusters.



Jerry Manuel's outside-the-box thinking illustrates that conventional wisdom isn't always wrong.



CBS cancels the dopily charming New Adventures of Old Christine.



The Bachelor: The Video Game, a new achievement in sadness.

A 132-pound Hooters waitress says bosses told her to lose weight and make her breasts larger.

"Scandals" over skanky pics of beauty-pageant winners like the new Miss USA. People, beauty pageants are an inherently skanky enterprise.

LOWBROW

The new Band of Horses album, Infinite Arms. So pretty, yet so many!



The complete Daria on DVD.

Jack Bauer goes out in a blaze of disembowelments.



Stringer Bell (a.k.a. Idris Elba, a.k.a. King Driis) released a rap song—"Hold On"—and it's actually quite good.



So long, Lost! It's been a sometimes-confusing, often-enraging, but on the whole enjoyably mind-bending six seasons.



R. Kelly's new song for the South Africa World Cup seems to have been written by people whose only experience with African culture was The Lion King, but it's still great.



The viral video taken at a Costa Rican sloth orphanage.

Brosicingbros.com. Probably a marketing stunt, but still funny.



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Links in the approval matrix! Links in the approval matrix!

BY **BALLAD** on 05/25/2010 at 7:21 am

It's either the content or the placement, I'm not sure, but this AM is way off.

And how long do we have to talk about Lost?

BY **KAFKASK** on 05/24/2010 at 11:17 am

It's despicable that the "oil spill heading to Florida and the Atlantic Ocean" is A. so close to the middle line and B. considered more ...

BY **JONATHANJOEL** on 05/24/2010 at 3:58 am

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