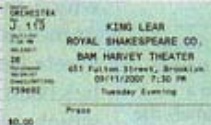


# THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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

## HIGHBROW

Online gougers auction off precious *King Lear* tickets.



The increasingly wobbly *Weeds*.

Off Broadway theater 37 Arts faces bankruptcy.



The **Emerging Artist Fellowship Exhibition** at Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City.

David Foster Wallace's **barn-burning intro** to *The Best American Essays 2007*.

George Saunders's essential nonfiction collection, **The Braindead Megaphone**.



Lincoln Center casts the sublime **Kelli O'Hara** in *South Pacific*.

The Marc Jacobs show **starts hours late**. Again.

The Marc Jacobs show **is worth the wait**. Again.



Say it ain't so: Ur-redhead **Julianne Moore goes blonde** at Fashion Week.



The **Tropfest@Tribeca** outdoor festival of short films, screening Sept. 23.

*Death Wish* redux **The Brave One**.



The **dashed expectations** of Oscar-film season.

The **high expectations** of Oscar-film season.



**Sonya Walger's** chilly, and occasionally chilling, Carolyn on *Tell Me You Love Me*.



**Jon Stewart gets a do-over** as Oscar host.

DESPICABLE

*Death Wish* redux **Death Sentence**.



**INDIANA JONES and the KINGDOM OF the CRYSTAL SKULL**



The title **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**. In which Indy apparently battles Damien Hirst.

Sam Rockwell in **The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford**.

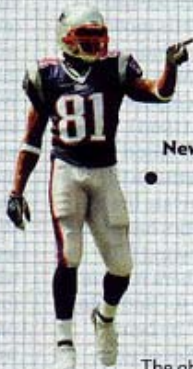


**Oprah and Letterman. Finally.**

The New **Pornographers' Challengers**.



**Steven Seagal's energy drink.** Awesome ponytail not included.



**New England Patriots, sign-stealers.**

**Twin hot-corner MVPs.**



The obsessive cult of **Madden NFL**.



The **True Beat Generation** blog, collecting harrowing tales of pre-Internet self-pleasuring.

The **TMZ TV show**.



The **train-wreck-errific MTV VMAs**.

This **bacon-flavored chocolate bar**.



Disney is developing **a sequel to Tron**.



**Robert Downey Jr.** as a perfectly louche Tony Stark in the trailers for *Iron Man*.

## LOWBROW

BRILLIANT