

THE APPROVAL MATRIX *Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.*

HIGHBROW



Saab, a historical leader in elegant car design, is likely going under.

Gallerist **Larry Salander** gets indicted for the art-world equivalent of the Madoff Ponzi scheme.



Neil LaBute, interviewed at Times Talks, turns out to be charming, cuddly. **Who knew?**

Hey, actual good media news! **NPR is getting record ratings.**



The Big Picture finance website digs up a **prescient 1998 column** on banking by, of all people, William Safire.

The MTA passed something that is literally called **"The Doomsday Plan"**...



...just as the man who brought you a **desperately underfunded MTA** is considering running for governor again!

The **Coen brothers' True Grit** remake plans put their adaptation of *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* on hold.

AIG exec Jake DeSantis resigns in the *Times* via a righteous and shockingly convincing put-down of Liddy, the U.S. government, and popular opinion.

Dear A.I.G., I Quit!



Reese Witherspoon's Rodarte dress at *Monsters vs. Aliens* premiere: alienlike, in a good way.



Oscar winners Sean Penn and Benicio Del Toro join, uh, BAFTA Award-nominated Jim Carrey in Farrelly bros. **revival of the Three Stooges.**



Karen Olivo's can't-take-your-eyes-off-her turn as *West Side Story's* fiery Anita.

Drew Barrymore is a **dead ringer for Little Edie** in HBO's upcoming *Grey Gardens* movie.



Adorable—and **scientifically noteworthy!**—leopard cubs on the front page of the *Washington Post*.



Allergy season is upon us.

He's a fine actor, but can we **stop making coming-of-age films** with Jesse? *"The Squid and the Whale/Adventureland"* Eisenberg? (There's more yet to come.)



DESPICABLE



Neil Young says he is releasing a concept album **about electric cars.**



(Excellent) new Cambodian sandwich shop **Num Pang is so overwhelmed by long lines** it has to close down for a day.



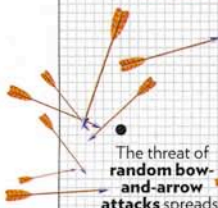
Jon Favreau and Jaime Pressly's **warring couple** in *I Love You, Man*.

30 Rock's **Tracy Jordan Jr.**

Jill Scott and Idris Elba on HBO's *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*.



BRILLIANT



The threat of **random bow-and-arrow attacks** spreads; this time it was Queens.



Absurdity overload on ABC's corporate sitcom *Better Off Ted*...

...Speaking of which, people watch *How I Met Your Mother* in spite of **dopey, charmless Ted**, right?



The amazing trailer for *Cat Shit One*, a CGI'd Japanese series about **rabbits that carry machine guns.**



Witness-protection-program spoof **Delocated** on Adult Swim.

McDonald's "sweet tea" drinks.



Lindsay Lohan's latest project is a **straight-to-cable film** called *Labor Pains*. She pretends to be pregnant—and high jinks ensue!

Snickers pulls off the local-reference-advertising trope without sounding clueless: **"Schedule a consultation with Doctor Feedmore,"** etc.

AMCtv.com's **BMC**, a free online archive of B-movie classics.



The lunatic, sex-saturated divorce trial of the countess who is suing for (among other things) **\$1,570 a week in horse-care alimony** from her CEO husband.



The unintentionally comic (for us)/tragic (for the actors) **poster campaign** for that Nora Roberts movie series.



LOWBROW