

The Approval Matrix: Week of December 29, 2014

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies. *Mouse over or tap the image for related links.*

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HIGHBROW

ISIS captures women it considers infidels and sells them as **sex slaves**.



UT Austin and Ohio State researchers find that kids who eat a lot of fast food have lower test scores. **Professor McNuggets** was shocked at this finding.



Michelangelo's **David** in danger of **collapse** from earthquakes!



China's president, Xi Jinping, calls for an end to **"weird architecture."**

Noted punker Paul Tudor Jones II to move his hedge fund to 51 Astor Place to be near many bong-and-tattoo joints.



An Illinois woman applied to trademark Eric Garner's last words—"I can't breathe"—to put it on clothing.

James Franco reportedly complains that "some" of his fellow film teachers at NYU were **"shitheads."**



Sony could lose as much as \$75 million over North Korea's **madcap** assassination of *The Interview*.



According to CityRealty, 2014 was the **most expensive** year ever for condo and co-op sales in Manhattan—even with fewer units sold.

Sting **ably** skips *The Last Ship* on Broadway.



In his Christmas address, Francis, the straight-dope pope, slams the Vatican bureaucracy's **"hardened heart,"** brown-nosing habits, "funereal" faces.



The complicated delight of Jacquelyn Buglisi's **Suspended Women** at Alvin Ailey.



The often grimly rollicking **Pocahontas** at Playwrights Horizons.



Amie Siegel's transporting history-of-**utopian-office-furniture** film *Provenance* at the Met.



Holiday reading: Phil Zuckerman's **Living the Secular Life ...**



... And Grant Wacker's *America's Pastor*, about **Billy Graham**.

American Symphony Orchestra's **doubleheader** of Thornton Wilder's *The Long Christmas Dinner*, the second time in opera form.



Slate's "Year of Outrage": a look back at what got our panties in a twist on **Twitter** in 2014.

Jason Sokol's **Yankees-are-racist-too** history *All Eyes Are Upon Us*.



DESPICABLE

Après ski.



American Apparel's pervy marketing genius Dov Charney reportedly couch-surfing, down to his **last \$100,000.**



"It smells like **pee and booty.**" Kandi Burruss goes on a tour of the Bronx with her husband on *Real Housewives of Atlanta*.

According to the *British Medical Journal*, half of the health recommendations on *The Dr. Oz Show* were **wrong or baseless.**



Even if Iggy Azalea is a bit racially **daft**, she's just a silly young pop star. Why are hacker-vigilantes trying to ruin her life? ...



Oliver Wasow's collection of **found photos** of people standing next to their televisions on vulture.com.



We'll miss Stephen Colbert's goofball, **spoonful-of-sugar-coated-satire** incisiveness.



Madonna's terrific, ahead-of-the-curve **"Unapologetic Bitch."**



... Still, Q-Tip did a pretty good job **Twitter-schooling** her on hip-hop history.



SNL's **"Serial"** parody. Happy holidays!



The MTA's new subway-**etiquette** ad campaign.



Disco: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Cover Art of Disco Records.



Native Americans okayed to grow and **sell pot** on tribal land.



BRILLIANT

Once banned as unsafe, Chinatown bus operator **Fung Wah** might be back in 2015.



Bruno Mars in **hair curlers.**



The Downtown Alliance installs a **"selfie station"** to help tourists get that perfect pic with One World Trade Center.



The on-trend winter **cape** basically turns our arms into useless appendages.



Bobby **Shmurda.** Rhymes with ... (Allegedly.)



Mission Chinese is back.



LOWBROW