

# THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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



As architectural sites are plundered, experts say **Iraqi cultural looting is worse than ever.**

Paintings by **Congo the chimp** bought at auction for record prices, while a Warhol and a Renoir remain unsold.



**Dave Eggers and Neal Pollack** feud publicly: Hug it out, boys.

French novel **Submission**: or, *He's Just Not That Into Whipping You.*



*Submission's* author's photo.



The massive, twenty-foot **entrance-to-the-underworld pothole** on 56th and Fifth.

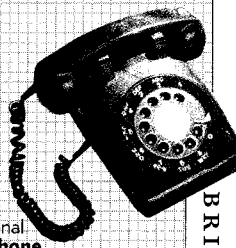


The **Barbara Kruger-designed wine label** for Bedell Cellars on Long Island.



**2 Columbus Circle** gets a boost from preservationists.

The fully functional **rotary-dial cell phone** on Makezine.com.



Louise Bogan's **A Poet's Prose**: gossipy, shrewd observations on poetry and poets.

## HIGHBROW

Vanessa Redgrave fails to redeem a pretentious **Hecuba** at BAM.



Jock Soto **dances his farewell** after 25 years with the New York City Ballet.



An Oakland family returns a library book **that's 78 years overdue.**

The naming of **Jerome Robbins Place**, at 62nd and Columbus.

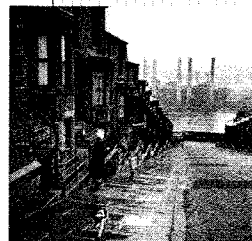
DESPICABLE

**TV on your cell phone.** Wear yourself already.

British farmers **protest the term couch potato**, suggesting *couch slouch* instead.

**Baseball on Coney Island.**

**Beat It**, a workshop that teaches audiences the choreography from the M.J. video, then climaxes in a mass performance.



English city of Newcastle upon Tyne considers **banning stand-up comics** who work blue.



Michael Caine's **shameless scene-stealing** in *Batman Begins* and *Bewitched*.

**JOSS WHEDON IS MY MASTER NOW** T-shirts: Take that, Lucas.



Cillian Murphy's **psycho psychiatrist** in *Batman Begins*.



Gwen Stefani's grating "**Hollaback Girl**," the "Who Let the Dogs Out?" of eighties revivalism.



Aerosmith's Joe Perry launches a line of hot sauces, including **Rock Your World Boneyard Brew.**



The **guilty-pleasure cast of mooks** on *Entourage*.



## LOWBROW

## PIPELINE

Blockbuster garage band **the White Stripes** have announced the second leg of a massive fall 2005 tour, which will bring them to Coney Island's KeySpan Park in late September; co-headlining the show will be indie act **the Shins**. . . . **Tom Cruise's** next installment of the *Mission: Impossible* series (which starts shooting next month in Italy, despite rumors

of the project's demise) has attracted an impressive cast, including **Philip Seymour Hoffman, Laurence Fishburne, Keri Russell,** and **Jonathan Rhys-Meyers**. . . . The Disney Channel is rumored to have hired *Avenue Q* original star **John Tartaglia** to do a series called *Johnny and the Sprites*, which would debut in 2006. . . . In the latest example of

child-of-a-famous-author-tells-all, **Janna Malamud Smith** (daughter of the late Bernard Malamud) is working on her own memoir, *My Father Is a Book*. . . . **Hugh Jackman** is the latest star to heed the siren call of **Woody Allen**; Jackman will star opposite **Scarlett Johansson** in the untitled Allen project that kicked off production in London in June.

BRILLIANT