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.
- Noted punker Paul Tucor Jones is to move his hedge fund to 51 Astor Place to be near many bong-and-tattoo joints.
- Sting blysnips The Last Ship on Broadway.
- Michelangelo’s David in danger of collapse from earing sakes!
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- China’s president, Xi Jinping, calls for an end to “weird architecture.”
- The complicated delights of Jaccelyn Buglisi’s Suspended Women at Alvin Alley.
- The often grumpy collieking Pacottle at Playwrights Horizons.
- Annie Siegel’s transporting history of utopian-office-furniture film Provenance at the Met.
- Holiday reading: Phil Zuckerman’s Living the Secular Life...
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- ...And Grant Wacker’s Americas Pastor, about Billy Graham.
- Sony could lose as much as $75 million over North Korea’s maddap assassination of The Interview.
- American Symphony Orchestra’s doubleheader of Thornton Wilder’s The Long Christmas Dinner, the second time in opera form.
- Jason Siska’s Yankees-are-racist-too history All Eyes Are Upon Us.
- An Illinois woman applied to trademark Eric Can’t’s last words—“I can’t breathe”— to put it on clothing.
- According to CityRealty, 2014 was the most expensive year ever for co-ops and co-op sales in Manhattan—even with fewer units sold.

Despicable

- Après ski. American Apparel’s perfy-marketing genius Dey Charney reportedly couch-surfing, down to his last $103,000.
- “It smells like pee and booty.” Rabbit Burruss opens 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 hackers vigilantes trying to ruin her life?...
- The Downtown Alliance installs a “selfie station” to help tourists get that perfect pic with One World Trade Center.
- Sasha Obama is back.

Brilliant

- Bobby Smurda. Rhymics with... (Allegedly)
- Buruaar Mus in hair curlers.
- Once banned as unsafe, Chinatown bus operator Ruffe Nah might be back in 2015.
- Mission Chinese is back.
- Native Americans ok to grow and sell pot on tribal land.

Lowbrow

- SNL’s “Serial” parody. Happy holidays!
- The MTAs new subway-etiquette campaign.
- The on-trend winter cape basically turn our arms into useless appendages.