THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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

HIGHBROW

DESPICABLE

BRILLIANT

LOWBROW

President Cartman.

Blame the media! Blame the WHO! Blame the ... **green-card holders?**

"I also **resisted** efforts to fund potentially dangerous drugs promoted by those with political connections."

The last gasp of the **department store?**

Las Vegas: Come **gamble** with your life!

Small-business loans go to big business—and big banks get **$10 billion** in fees.

National conservative groups coordinate **"grassroots"** lockdown protests ...

... While corona-truther rabble-rousers keep **dying** of the very disease they were told was not a big deal.

Attempts to take the "long view" of this pandemic by comparing it to **long-ago** death tolls.

Millions of chickens are slaughtered, and $5 billion in fruits and vegetables are thrown out, while people go **hungry.**

Turns out reading Woody Allen's memoir will make you think **worse** of him as a filmmaker ...

... Oh, and probably **even worse** of him as a person.

No **Pride** Parade. No Puerto Rican Day Parade ...

Shouldn't Spike Jonze's *Beastie Boys Story* **party** a little harder?

Dr. Phil is not **actually** an immunologist.

UCB NYC, **RIP.**

The Basquiat Barbie. Does she **date** Madonna?

Pour one **out** for the *Shutdown Fullcast*, the internet's only college-football podcast.

Pandemic recession **salary cuts** ...

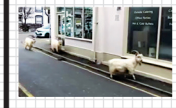
... But making less is the new **getting ahead** (at least you still have a job).

Shark Tank star Daymond John reportedly tried to be a **PPE profiteer.**

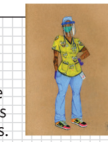
All American Gator Products in Dania Beach is selling **alligator** face masks. Teeth not included.

Lucky Strike—like so many of the city's **storied** restaurants—runs out of luck.

The president muses about the **Lysol-injection treatment** for COVID-19.

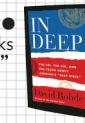


With people out of the way at last, wild animals try to reclaim our towns. Happy **Earth Day!**



Aya Brown's portraits of black and brown female **essential workers.**

David Rohde's spelunks into the **"deep state"** for his not-quite-an-exposé, *In Deep.*



Michael Urie's **delightful DIY** *Buyer & Cellar* is proof that streaming theater can work.

Howard Greenberg Gallery's online exhibit **"One Third of a Nation:** The Photographs of the Farm Security Administration."

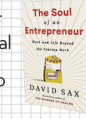
Teachers, valiantly trying to keep your kids **focused** during remote classes.

Shakespeare on Your Sofa! *Much Ado About Nothing* from last season's Shakespeare in the Park—livestreamed.

Artists Nicole Eisenman and Sam Roeck make corona-safety **banana stickers** for Apple.

Ben Hecht's bizarre, digressive (and **horny**) autobiography, *A Child of the Century,* is back in print.

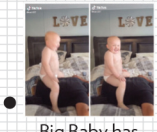
David Sax's *The Soul of an Entrepreneur,* essential reading before we all get **laid off** and have to restart our careers.



A24 is auctioning for charity props from the **lighthearted romps** *Midsommar* and *Uncut Gems.*

Let's Go Crazy: The Grammy Salute to Prince on CBS, broadcast to us from the **Before Time.**

The bonkers Freeform show *Motherland: Fort Salem,* in which **teen witches** fight terrorists.



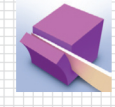
Big Baby has earned his **meme fame.**

Missy Elliott's "Cool Off" video is ... **chill.**

DJ Mazurbate's IG **dance parties** outside his window in Soho.

With *Too Hot to Handle,* Netflix gives us quarantine **supertrash** ...

... With *Money Heist* as a Spanish-language **runner-up.**



ASMR Slicing, an **anti-existential-terror** app that simulates cutting colored cakes of sand.

Ansel Elgort posted a nude to encourage philanthropy and **thirst.**

PHOTOGRAPHS: RICKABRIGHT/TWITTER (POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DRUGS); THE TELEGRAPH/YOUTUBE (WILD ANIMALS); AYA BROWN (ESSENTIAL WORKERS); WALKER EVANS, LAURA MINNIE LEE TENGLE, HALE COUNTY, ALABAMA, 1936 COURTESY OF HOWARD GREENBERG GALLERY (FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION); BROADWAYCOM/YOUTUBE (URIE); SETHABRAMSON/TWITTER (PROTESTERS); VISUALCAP/INSTAGRAM (LONG VIEW); PBS (MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING); APP STORE (BANANA, ASMR SLICING); PATRICK MCMULLAN (ALLEN, ELGORT, JOHN); JOEYSKLADANY/INSTAGRAM (PRIDE); APPLE+ (BEASTIE BOYS); A24 (CHARITY PROPS); MONTY BRINTON/CBS (PRINCE); PREETBHARARA/TWITTER (DR PHIL); COURTESY OF BARBIE, ESTATE OF JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT LICENSED BY ARTESTAR, NEW YORK (BASQUIAT BARBIE); KAT.027/TIKTOK (BIG BABY); LUIGI NOVI/WIKIMEDIA (UCB THEATRE); COURTESY OF FREEFORM/© 2019 DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC. (MOTHERLAND); MISSY ELLIOT/YOUTUBE (MISSY ELLIOT); ROMMEL DEMANO (DJ MAZURBATE); WDBO (ALL AMERICAN GATOR); COURTESY OF NETFLIX (TOO HOT TO HANDLE); TAMARA ARRANZ/NETFLIX (MONEY HEIST); COURTESY OF LUCKY STRIKE (LUCKY STRIKE).