



HIGHBROW

BRILLIANT

DESPICABLE

LOWBROW

• Pretty much everything **Damien Hirst** did this year.



Scooter Libby's sentence, commuted.



Norman Lebrecht's *The Life and Death of Classical Music*, yanked from stores in Britain because some of it might have been made up.

Chumley's closes.



Soprano **Stephanie Blythe** in the **Met's** live multiplex broadcast of *Il Trittico*.



The Venice Biennale, Documenta (every five years), and Skulptur Projekte Munster (every ten years) **all happen in the same summer**.



Doug Aitken's *sleepwalkers* at MoMA.



Kurt Vonnegut, R.I.P.



Serra at MoMA.

Norman Mailer, R.I.P.



The Brief Wondrous Life of **Oscar Wao** by **Junot Diaz**

Junot Diaz finally delivers a novel, after ten years.

Michael Chabon delivers again.

No Country for Old Men.

The Sopranos ends with three straight hours of sheer suspense.

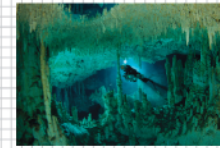


Frost/Nixon.

The plans for **Jean Nouvel's** bold new **midtown tower**.



Planet Earth on the Discovery Channel.



The **Wimbledon** final.



Sir Ian McKellen's junk.



The cute polar bear in Berlin!

Radiohead's *In Rainbows*.

The subway **superman**.



Kristin Chenoweth makes her Met debut wearing a Mets cap.

...and now **iPhones** are cheap(ish)!



The **iPhone's** price drops two months after its debut, screwing the most loyal customers...

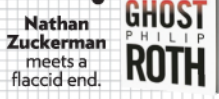


The **Oscars** snub *Children of Men*.



Factory Girl.

Margot at the Wedding.



Nathan Zuckerman meets a flaccid end.

Congestion pricing teeters on the brink.

Showbiz shuts down.



The White House Correspondents Dinner features **Rich Little**.



Flight prices take off, while planes at New York airports generally don't, at least not on time.

Pavarotti's family squabbles over his possibly nonexistent millions.



Anna Nicole Smith's "family" squabbles over her ambiguously fathered baby's millions.



Curb Your Enthusiasm mirrors Larry David's real-life crumbling marriage.

Virgin Mobile's **"You Rule"** NYC neighborhood-targeted ads.



ABC doesn't pick up the **Mitchell Hurwitz-Christopher Guest** pilot.



Jane magazine is no more.

Michael Crichton exacts revenge on a critic by writing him into his book as a **child rapist**.



Trump Steaks.



Michael Vick.

Andy Richter flops again. We're still rooting for you, Andy!



This stroller for dogs.



John Travolta in *Hairspray*.



Spider-Man 3.

Pirates of the Caribbean 3.



Tautologous reasoning in "This Is Why I'm Hot."



America ignores *Grindhouse*.



Grindhouse.

Viva 30 Rock.



The ending of *The Bourne Ultimatum*.

The **Rambo** trailer featuring **Rambo** punching a man's head off.



The **David O. Russell** meltdown on YouTube.

Amy Winehouse's music.



Everything **Amy Winehouse** does that doesn't involve singing.



Viva Laughlin.

M.J.A.'s *Kala*.

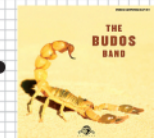


This **bacon-flavored** chocolate bar.



Mad Men.

Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings, the **Budos Band**, **Mark Ronson**, and the **Motown-soul** revival.



Prince at the **Super Bowl** halftime show.



Ratatouille.



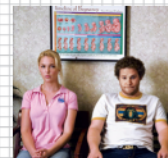
Jim and Pam, together at last.

Wii-mania.



The **Chopin Halo 3** ad.

Knocked Up, **Superbad**, and the **Apatovian** comedy factory.



"The Landlord."



Rihanna's **"Umbrella."**



Joey Chestnut takes the **Nathan's** hot-dog crown from **Takeru Kobayashi**. USA! USA! USA!



Gossip Girl.

Lousy, interchangeable high-concept thrillers: **Perfect Stranger**, **Awake, I Know Who Killed Me**, **Next...**

Posh-'n'-Becks invades the USA.



Norbit.

