

THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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



PIPELINE

Ben Stiller will star in and produce a big-screen adaptation of the 1971 British television series *The Persuaders*, which followed two wealthy gentlemen as they traveled around the world, searching for erotic adventure.... Alt-rock act **Depeche Mode** is at work on a new album, its first since 2001's *Exciter*.... *Seinfeld*'s **Julia Louis-**

Dreyfus will star in a comedy for CBS called *Old Christine*, in which she'll play a divorced mom dealing with her ex-husband's new girlfriend, who has the same name as she does.... Original *Avenue Q* puppeteer **Rick Lyon** is leaving the show, with his last appearance scheduled for July 3.... Oscar winner **Kevin Spacey** is planning an eight-

part reality series titled *Going Hollywood*, in which he'll mentor an intern; also appearing will be rapper **Method Man** and producer **Robert Evans**.... Pulitzer Prize winner **John Patrick Shanley** will stage a free, one-night performance of his new play, *Chain of Command*, at Vassar's Powerhouse Theatre on July 16; no cast is yet announced.