

# Attitude

THE HOME OF POP CULTURE

## WHO doesn't love a good celebrity scandal?

Celebrity mug shots are a fascinating thing. Browsing through pictures of stars who you'd normally see stalking the catwalk – not the prison cell – shows that they really are Hollywood's Most Wanted.

Police mug shots are a darkly humorous and slightly upsetting take on celebrity portraiture, easily accessible online at sites such as TheSmokingGun.com and TMZ.com. It's a tense and mesmerising combination of gloss and grit, but the dual-edged sword of celebrity is no mystery – we've seen it personified by Britney, Lindsay and even Paris (twice).

Using mug shots of entertainment figures released by law enforcement, German-raised Los Angeles artist Rachel Schmeidler gives them star treatment.

She restores the fallen stars to a vision of glamour through a combination of digital imaging technology and old-fashioned silk-screening.

What is it about the celebrity mugshot that transfixes us? Is it schadenfreude: taking pleasure in seeing the untouchable aura of celebrity shattered?

Why do we delight in seeing the ivory tower crumble, the pedestal tumble and the stars fall?

"Our fascination with celebrity is a symptom of a larger cultural obsession with wealth, attractiveness and achievement. Celebrities seem to embody all of these, and therefore are easily idolised," said artist Rachel Schmeidler, whose exhibition *Hollywood's Most Wanted* is touring California.

"We, as a culture – like many generations before us – seem to need idols. Celebrities seem to fill this human need or desire. The celebrity mug shot transfixes us

# the mugs



"Many people can relate to the visual output of this process [and] bright colours; mainly because the graphic characteristic is seen in magazines, newspapers, television, and the internet," Schmeidler said.

"I spend a lot of time thinking about Warhol, and how the creator of pop art came from a very un-pop town.

"Printmaking is a powerful communication tool used by all industries. Warhol made it OK to use it in art.

"I need my work – the mug shots – to be clear and easily understood, so the viewers can immediately relate, and self-reflect. I want to immediately communicate to my viewers the subtle statement about our culture."

Other stars idolised (and subsequently humanised) in Schmeidler's trash-glam line-up include Paris Hilton (two mug shots for her driving offences), Michael Jackson (2003, take a guess), Marilyn Manson (pelvis-grinding against the head of a security guard during a July 2001 concert), and Elvis (he actually requested his mug shot be taken while visiting President Nixon at FBI headquarters).

"The mug shot I'd love to create is Winona Ryder's for the shoplifting incident at Saks Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills. She was never at risk of hurting someone physically. I find this nice," Schmeidler said.

www.hollywoodmostwanted.com

REBECCA FITZGIBBON

## bring it on

★ MOVE over, crusty old rockers – the next generation of stars is set to shine when the TasMusic Rock Challenge kicks off next week.

Now in its 17th year, the event is the biggest of its kind in the country and gives potential stars the chance to rock out in front of a big crowd and a panel of industry judges.

Heats will be held at the TUU Uni Bar in Sandy Bay and Sirocco's in Burnie on Tuesday and Wednesday, and at Launceston's Albert Hall on August 27 and 28. The final will be at the Albert Hall on the 30th. Tickets are \$10, available at the door.

★ STUDENTS from 11 schools around the state will strut their stuff at the Derwent Entertainment Centre for tonight's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge state final.

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge and JRock state finals will be held at the DEC from 7pm tonight. Tickets are available from www.ticketmaster.com.au or at the door for \$32.20.



★ TOM Cruise is a bit of a worry but his 2001 film *Minority Report* is pretty damn cool, if a little bleak. It's on WIN from 8.30pm tonight.

★ THE *Sideshow* with Paul McDermott was a huge hit when it premiered earlier this year and now it's back, bringing some variety back to your Saturday nights.

Featuring comedians Frank Woodley and Kitty Flanagan and the hilarious *Threatening Bears*, *The Sideshow* is back on the ABC from the new time of 9.25pm tomorrow night.

★ CHUCK Levine and Larry Valentine are the pride of their fire station – two "guy's guys", always willing to do anything for each other.

Chuck owes Larry a favour for saving his life in a fire but it's a pretty big favour. Larry wants them to pose as a gay couple for insurance purposes.



Forced to improvise as love-struck newlyweds, Chuck and Larry must now fumble through a hilarious charade of domestic bliss under one roof.

*I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry* is walking down the aisle at Village Cinemas.

KANE YOUNG

# TOP 10

## Top Ten Celebrity Convict All-stars

**1 Jane Fonda** was arrested in 1970 for disturbing the peace and smuggling unidentified pills (actually vitamins).



**2 Eminem** (Marshall Mathers III) was arrested twice in 2000 on gun charges.



**3 Snoop Dogg** (Calvin Broadus) was booked last year for carrying a collapsible baton at John Wayne Airport.



**4 Lil' Kim** (Kimberly Denise Jones) was arrested in 1996 for drug possession at the home of the late Notorious B.I.G.



**5 Mel Gibson** was arrested in California last year for speeding and drink-driving.



**6 Anna Nicole Smith** was arrested for drink-driving in Texas in 1989.



**7 Hugh Grant** was arrested this year for throwing a can of baked beans at a paparazzo.



**8 Robert Downey Jr** received recurrent drug charges in the '90s.



**9 O.J. Simpson** was tried and acquitted for the murder of his ex-wife and her friend in 1994.



**10 Michael Jackson** was acquitted of child molestation charges filed against him between 1993 and 2005.

