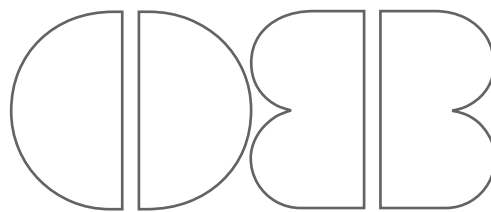




CRISPIN LEYSER IS AN LA-BASED TV EXECUTIVE

'Geeks are a big trend in the States right now with shows like Big Bang Theory, which is coming to Channel 4 this year. The show is about two physics nerds who live together when a hot girl moves in next door, and it features three members of the original Roseanne cast. Then there's a show on NBC called Chuck about a geek who accidentally gets all of the government's secrets downloaded into his head so all the spies are chasing him.

The other theme will probably be wealth and power, which is reflected in a couple of shows, including Dirty Sexy Money (pictured), starring Donald Sutherland as part of an incredibly rich but highly dysfunctional family. If I say one of the brothers is running for Senate while having a secret relationship with a transsexual, you'll get the picture. That's coming to Channel 4. Then there's Cane, starring Jimmy Smits, about a wealthy Southern family in control of the sugar cane industry and that's been bought by ITV.'



GEOFF SEELEY, DIGITAL MARKETING CONSULTANT

The big news online this year is the massive increase in penetration of mobile phone internet handsets. I wouldn't be surprised if Westminster council wi-fied the whole borough. It's already been done in the City of London. In the same way now that we roam in and out of different areas of mobile phone coverage, we'll be able to roam between different wi-fi areas. We'll be a totally wi-fi broadband nation. So if you're meeting mates on the corner of Oxford Street but you haven't decided where to have dinner you'll get out your phone, google Japanese restaurants in W1, get instructions on how to get there and book it online. Then two minutes later you can walk in and take your table.'



ALI PETTIT, GALLERY OWNER

'New collectors are swinging further towards contemporary art as opposed to the old masters. At one level, as a reaction to flux and uncertainty, people want something stable and solid, with a simplification of imagery and a return to painting and illustration. Conversely there is also a reaction to turbulent times with guerrilla art such as Banksy.'

Chinese art, particularly "cynical realism" and "political pop", is huge now: one name to look out for is Yue Minjun, whose The Massacre of Choi (above) recently sold at auction for £2 million.'

Ali Pettit owns Northcote Gallery, in Battersea and Chelsea

ALISTAIR SMITH, THE STAGE NEWSPAPER

'On the musical front, there are three very big openings this year which should prove popular: Jersey Boys, a new show about the 1960s band The Four Seasons; Trevor Nunn's new musical version of Gone with the Wind; and Marguerite, a musical set in the Second World War from the makers of Les Miserables.'

Meanwhile, Kevin Spacey returns to the Old Vic stage in January in David Mamet's Hollywood satire Speed-the-Plow and Kenneth Branagh's making a welcome return to West End theatre direction with a new version of Ivanov.

Elsewhere, the RSC is bringing all eight plays in Shakespeare's history cycles (including Richard II, right) to Camden's Roundhouse. It should be a quite an occasion.'



Photography: Masterfile/Chris Moore/Rex/Sotheby's

JOEL RICKETT, THE BOOKSELLER MAGAZINE

'Richard T Kelly's debut novel The Crusaders, set in 1990s Newcastle, is already being talked about as the British book of the decade. And there's a new Hanif Kureishi novel, Something to Tell You, set in London, which will be big news.'



PATRICK MALLUCCI, PLASTIC SURGEON

'I think breast augmentation will remain the most popular procedure. In Texas they have started doing it as a day procedure and it will be interesting to see if that takes off here.'

Lip implants are quite a new procedure, and I think they will grow in popularity in 2008. Rather than having to come back every few months for regular collagen injections, this is a more permanent solution, hence its name - Permalip. Collagen fades, so people tend to get over-pumped at the start and end up looking as if they've been punched in the mouth by Mike Tyson. But Permalip is an instant solution.

In terms of face lifting we're seeing more people veering towards short scar lifts. This means we avoid the long scars that go up into the hairline or behind the ears. Instead you have to be a bit cleverer, gathering the skin up through the shorter scar, almost like a dressmaker with material.'

Patrick Mallucci is a consultant plastic surgeon at London Plastic Surgery Associates