

## "Info-Culture" - Live Radio-Canada (CBC) Radio Broadcast - October 8th, 2004

What follows is a translation of the original French CBC broadcast. You can listen to that recording archive here: <http://www.philippe.actor/the-title/>

### **CBC Announcer:**

"*The Decline of the American Empire* is premiering all over again, however this time as a theater play, running this entire month at The Gene Frankel Theater, a small New York house. **Denys Arcand** has assigned his rights to **Philippe Blanchard**, a Quebecois actor living in New York. Blanchard, who acts in the play alongside a dozen American actors, has translated the script himself before adapting it for the stage. The music was created by another Quebecois, composer **Sébastien** (sic – Stéphane) **Tremblay**. Our correspondent, Marion Piekarec, has seen the dress rehearsal of "*The Decline of the American Empire – the play*."

### **Marion Piekarec:**

"Couples look away at the sun, setting on the lake. The public *is* the lake. As per the sun? Just one bright orange spotlight. With very little means, Philippe Blanchard produces a miraculous mirage. Here we are, transported on the banks of Lake Memphremagog with the charming characters from *The Decline of the American Empire*. The only difference is, they speak English. But Blanchard's translation is so faithful, we could swear we are listening to **Arcand's** own words."

### **Philippe Blanchard:**

"All I did here was to work as closely as possible to *his* original idea, what I understood his idea to be and what I thought *he* wanted to convey. And, well, apparently it worked for him, he understood that I was going to keep the spirit of *The Decline*, as *he* had crafted it. But also [looking at the existing subtitles] I thought *that* translation really was not, at all, close to the original French meaning, especially the Quebec sensibility. That was upsetting to me, I really wanted to try and highlight the original Quebecois sensibility in this adaptation."

### **Marion Piekarec:**

"Philippe Blanchard agrees that the timing for this production is ideal. First, "*The Barbarian Invasions*" has just been released and **Denys Arcand** is once again in the spotlight. Second, broaching the subject of *The Decline of the American Empire*, smack in the middle of a (American presidential) campaign, is to bring up a real topic of choice. Marion Piekarec, Radio-Canada, New York City."