

“Info-Culture” - Live Radio-Canada (CBC) Radio Broadcast - October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004

CBC Announcer:

“*The Decline of the American Empire* is again opening, this time as a theater play, at the Gene Frankel Theater, a small New York house. It will show there until the end of this month. **Deny Arcand** has given his rights to Philippe Blanchard, a Quebecer actor living in New York whom has himself translated the script before adapting it for the stage. Philippe Blanchard also plays a part in the play, accompanied by another dozen American actors. The music also, is signed by a Quebecer, Stephan (sic – Sébastien) Tremblay. Marion Piekarec has seen the dress rehearsal of the *play*, *The Decline of the American Empire*.”

Marion Piekarec:

“Couples look away at the sun setting on the lake. The public *is* the lake; the sun? Simply an orange spot... With little means, Philippe Blanchard produces a mirage, a miracle... Here we are, transported on the banks of the lake Memphremagog, accompanied with the charming characters from *The Decline of the American Empire*. The only difference is, they speak English. But even then, Philippe Blanchard’s translation is so faithful (to the original work) that we could be listening to **Denys Arcand’s** words...”

Philippe Blanchard:

“Everything I do is always as close as possible to *his* idea – to what I understood was what *he* wanted to express. And apparently, I made it clear enough (to him), or so he understood, that I was going to keep the spirit of *The Decline*, as *he* had made it (...) But moreover, I thought that the (existing – dubbing, sub-titles) translations were not really close to the initial French wording, and especially of the Quebec (French subtleties) sensibility – it was saddening to me - I really wanted to try and find this Quebec (French) sensibility in the English translation.”

Marion Piekarec:

“Philippe Blanchard agrees that producing the play shortly after the coming out of “*The Barbarian Invasions*” is ideal. Because it has once again shone a spot on **Denys Arcand** and also because, right in the middle of an electoral (American presidential) campaign, *The Decline of the American Empire* is a subject of choice. Marion Piekarec, Radio-Canada, New York.