

# The Fall of the American Empire

# After the decline... the fall.

We are all subjects of the American Empire. The moral rot of the Empire has started to infect us. Money's omnipotence is but one of the symptoms. Will we find antibiotics powerful enough to fight the gangrene?

Denys Arcand

# **Synopsis**

Pierre-Paul Daoust, 36, an intellectual with a PhD in philosophy is forced to work as a deliveryman to afford a decent living. One day, while delivering a parcel, he gets caught in a hold up gone terribly wrong: two dead and millions in money bags laying on the ground. Pierre-Paul is confronted with a dilemma leave empty handed, or take the money and run?

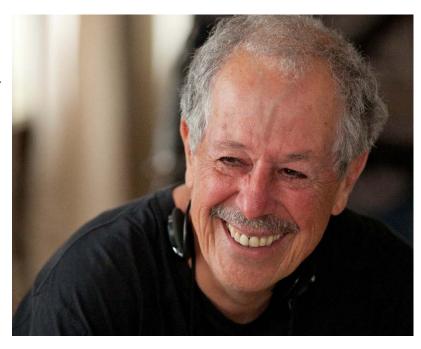
This new Denys Arcand film takes a witty yet touching look at, as only Arcand knows how, the predominance of money in a society where all other values seem to have crumbled.

# **Denys Arcand**

#### Director & screenwriter

An Academy Award winning director, Denys Arcand's films have won over 100 prestigious awards around the world. In 2003, he wrote and directed *The Barbarian Invasions* which was nominated for Best Original Screenplay and won the *Oscar* for Best Foreign Language Film. In France, it won three *César*–Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Director; in Italy, the Donatello for Best Foreign Language Film; at the Cannes Film Festival, the Best Actress and Best Screenplay awards, amongst many.

In 1989, Denys Arcand directed the powerful *Jesus of Montreal* which won the Jury's Grand Prize and the Ecumenical Prize in Cannes. The film also earned 12 *Genie* Awards



in addition of being nominated for the Oscar in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

In 2007, his film *Days of Darkness* was the Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival for Closing Night, a very special evening as it was the 60th birthday of the festival. His film *The Decline of the American Empire* won the International Critic's Prize (FIPRESCI) in Cannes, as well as an *Oscar* nomination as Best Foreign Language Film. In addition to his work as a filmmaker, Denys Arcand has published several articles and a book entitled *Euchariste Moisan* (2013). In 2011, he created, with artist Adad Hannah, an installation called SAFARI for the Big Bang Exposition celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. A lover of classical music, he directed in 2015 the opera *Zémire and Azor*, with Les Violons du Roy and the students of the school of Opera of Montreal.

Denys Arcand is Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters (France); Companion of the Order of Canada and Knight of the National Order of Quebec. He is also a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) and the *Académie des arts et techniques du cinéma* (César). Denys Arcand's films depict his love for history and his passionate look at the human condition.

## Cast

Pierre-Paul Daoust

Alexandre Landry
Aspasie/Camille Lafontaine

Maripier Morin

Sylvain «the brain» Bigras

Rémy Girard

Pete LaBauve Louis Morissette

Carla McDuff Maxim Roy
Me Wilbrod Taschereau Pierre Curzi

Jean-Claude Vincent Leclerc

Jacmel Rosalbert Patrick Émmanuel Abellard

Linda Florence Longpré

Vladimir François Eddy King

Nicole Geneviève Schmidt

D<sup>r</sup> Pierre-Yves Maranda Paul Doucet

Gilles Sainte-Marie Denis Bouchard

Jimmy Yan England
Steph David Savard

Natasha Rose-Marie Perreault

Sean McDowell Alain Goulem

Gemma Catherine Paquin-Béchard

Jacmel Rosalbert's mother Ayana O'Shun

Me Taschereau's receptionist Dominique Bertrand

News anchorSophie ThibaultMedical residentJuliette Gosselin

Damien Mathieu Lorain Dignard

#### With the kind participation of

Informant Claude Legault
Detective Plamondon Éric Bruneau
Management teacher James Hyndman

Joseph Benoit Brière
Marcel Gaston Lepage

Martin Ouellette Laurent Paquin

Choirmaster François Dompierre

# Alexandre Landry

#### Pierre-Paul Daoust

Alexandre Landry graduated from l'École nationale de théâtre du Canada in 2009.

Before embracing cinema, he worked in the theater world. He played the title role in *Les Aventures de Lagardère*, a play performed more than a hundred times throughout the island of Montreal and across the province of Quebec. He played in *Chambre(s)*, an Éric Jean creation at the Quat'Sous Theater, Euripide's *Médée* at Denise-Pelletier Theater, *Théâtre Extrême* at the Berkeley Theatre in Toronto and played Tom in *Tom à la ferme* at the Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, a Michel-Marc Bouchard creation, directed by Claude Poissant.

On T.V., he plays Theodore in *Les pays d'en haut III*. He is part of the cast of all three seasons of the *Blue Moon* series, playing the role of Francis. He also took part in the youth series *Camping de L'ours*, and plays Julien in both seasons of *Cheval-Serpent*.

For his first movie role in 2013, he played a young intellectually disabled man in Louise Archambault's film *Gabrielle*. This film has been viewed in more than twenty countries and Alexandre has won interpretation awards abroad, including the Best Actor *Valois* in Angoulême, France and the Best Actor Award in Gijón, Spain.



In 2014, in Rodrigue Jean's *Love in the Time of Civil War*, he plays the role of Alex, a young addict struggling to survive in the world of prostitution. That performance earned him a nomination at the *Gala du Cinéma Québécois*, and he was part of the *TIFF's Rising Stars* program where Rodrigue Jean's film premiered.

Finally, he is offered the role of Vincent in Chloé Robichaud's film *Boundaries*, the role of Jeff in the English-Canadian film *The Saver* and he also plays in Émile Gaudreault's *Father and guns II*.

# Maripier Morin

#### Aspasie/Camille Lafontaine

In less than ten years, French-Canadian Maripier Morin has imposed herself as one of Canada's fastest rising stars. With an enviable career as one of Quebec's top TV hosts, she does not shy away from any new opportunity to widen her audience and show everyone her seemingly endless set of skills.

In 2006, Maripier was first discovered by the public when she took part in a very successful reality TV from Quebec: *Occupation Double*. Little than a year later, she was offered her first contract in television. She was then selected as one of the beauties for the French version of *Deal or No Deal*.

She was then able to perfect her natural talent for animation in, *Un gars le Soir, District V, Ça commence Bien, Faites Comme Chez Vous, 99 envies d'évasion*, and addressing

cork a spinoff of the popular TV contest.

teenagers in *Code F*. She co-hosted *La Voix Junior* on TVA network, a spinoff of the popular TV contest *The Voice*.

In the spring of 2016, she finally realized her dream to host her own late night talk show with *Maripier!* the flagship program of CanalZ. In the last 3 years, Maripier has also taken part in the hosting team for the top afternoon-drive show in the province of Quebec.

Recently married to the professional hockey player Brandon Prust, Maripier was chosen to "spice up" to the group of girls starring in the documentary show *Hockey Wives* on W Network. She is the only recurrent cast member of the first 3 seasons. It accommodates her "not-so-secret" desire to work one day as a pan-Canadian host on an English-speaking network. Her Youtube Channel *Pardon my French*, is just another opportunity for her to target this vast audience.

She is also the spokesperson of the Foundation of Stars, where she is implicated with kids who have untreatable diseases.

In 2018, Maripier is hosting the French-Canadian version of *The Wall: Face au Mur*. A show that is perfectly suited for her innate sense of empathy and her playfulness.

With Maripier Morin, the answer to the question: "what's next?" is always unexpected and fascinating.

# Rémy Girard

Sylvain «the brain» Bigras

With his impressive track record, Rémy Girard has a rich and abundant career. On stage, he delivered remarkable interpretations of many great characters. He was seen in *La leçon, Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait au bon dieu?, Marius et Fanny, Le Murmure du Coquelicot, Le dindon, Ubu roi, L'ouvre-boîte, Les joyeuses commères de Windsor, Don Quichotte, Le malade imaginaire* and *En attendant Godot* among others.

On T.V., he was part of the cast of *L'échappée II, 30 vies, Ti-Mé Show, Détect.inc., Emma, Bunker le cirque, La petite vie, Cher Olivier* and *Scoop*. He also played the inimitable Papa Bougon in the cult series *Les Bougon, c'est aussi ça la vie,* and on the big screen in *Votez Bougon,* as well as Stan, the coach and spiritual father in *Les Boys I, II, III* (L. Saia) and *IV* (G. Mihalka).

In addition, RÉMY GIRARD proves that he also masters comedy in English, in the Canadian series *InSecurity I* and *II* broadcast on the CBC. On the silver screen, in addition to *Incendie* (D. Villeneuve),



Cabotins (A. Desrochers), Father and Guns (É. Gaudreault), 7 Days (Podz), Honey, I'm in Love (C. Meunier), The American Trap (C. Binamé), Bluff (Marc-André Lavoie and Simon-Olivier Fecteau), The Rockey (C. Binamé), The Barbarian Invasions (D. Arcand) and Seraphin: Heart of Stone (C. Binamé), La Florida (G. Mihalka), Dans le ventre du dragon (Y. Simoneau), and The Decline of the American Empire (D. Arcand).

# Louis Morissette

#### Pete LaBauve

In 1996, shortly after graduating from l'École Nationale de l'humour, Louis lands in Quebec's cultural landscape. He quickly earned a reputation for his caustic humour as a member of Les Mecs Comiques trio, both on stage and on the radio.

A few years later, he took on the roles of writer and comedian on several shows, including 3x Rien, C. A. and several editions of the comic year-in-review Bye Bye.

As Louis Morissette's irresistible desire for creative freedom intensified, the idea of producing his own shows and feature films was making headway. Thus, he went on to coproduce *C. A., Le verdict,* several *Bye Byes...* and developed a taste for it.

In 2011, to give himself the means to fulfill his ambitions, he cofounded what has become Groupe KO, a group whose entities KOTV, KO Média, KOScène and KO24 now produce a wide range of programming, including TV series, comedy, variety, documentary, fiction (KOTV), live comedy shows (KOScène) and magazines (KO Média). Similarly, KO 24 fulfills his passion for making films.



Indeed, he doesn't hesitate to take on many tasks within a single project, as also evidenced by his triple role of scriptwriter, actor and producer for Ricardo Trogi's film *The Mirage*, released in 2015, and for the *Plan B* series produced by KOTV in which he starred and kept viewers in suspense last spring. He also produced and co-wrote, with Kim Lévesque-Lizotte, the highly successful series *Les Simone*.

In December 2017, Louis Morissette and his wife Véronique Cloutier ended a series of comedy shows, *Les Morissette*, in which they both starred. With 250,000 tickets sold and 300 performances, *Les Morissette* is without question one of the most popular comedy shows in recent years.

Recognized as a funny, intelligent and honest artist, who also holds a Bachelor of Marketing and International Commerce from McGill University, Louis has become what can only be referred to as a serial entrepreneur, whose success is equalled only by his ambition.

# Maxim Roy

#### Carla McDuff

Roy started her acting career doing theatre and musicals. Her big break came when she landed a lead role in a television series based on the best-selling book *Au Nom du Pere et du Fils* and went on to do the sequel, *Le Sorcier*. At an early age, she worked with Oscarwinner Denys Arcand, Bruce McDonald and Richard Ciupka. After an incredibly successful, four year run as the controversial Marie-Claude in Radio-Canada's popular prime-time soap *Virginie*, she played Sonia in the Golden Reel winner *Les Boys*, making Roy a Quebec Star.

Perfectly bilingual, Roy was soon offered projects in English Canada. She received nationwide attention for her role as the extravagant Intelligence Gathering Officer, Jennifer Mackenzie in *The Last Chapter I and II*. Her work then crossed the border in the television series, *Misguided Angels* for Fox Family. Roy's versatility enables her to play characters that are both colourful and memorable.

Roy starred as Caroline Morrison opposite Peter Outerbridge in the award-winning, internationally renowned series *ReGenesis* for two seasons and as Mickey Bell, an undercover cop mini-series, *Would Be Kings*.



She starred in *Infected* with Gil Bellows, in *MVP* (*The Secret Lives of Hockey Wives*) on ABC, in the BBC mini-series, *Superstorm* and had a recurring role in *Sophie Parker* on CBC. She graced our TV screens as Fight Surgeon Claire Dereux, in the international series *Defying Gravity* (ABC, CTV, BBC and ProSieben).

# Pierre Curzi

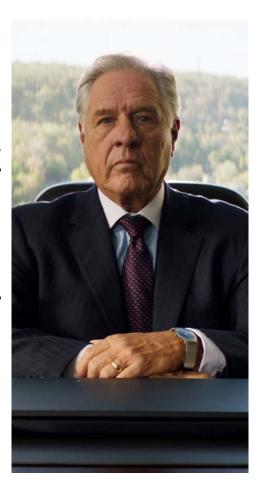
#### Me Wilbrod Taschereau

Pierre Curzi graduated from the National Theatre School in 1969. He then played in numerous popular Quebec movies such as *Maria Chapdelaine, The Crime of Ovide Plouffe, The Decline of the American Empire, The Barbarian Invasions, Days of Darkness, Littoral* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Most recently, he played belong Thierry Lhermite in *The New Life of Paul Sneijder*, a France-Canada coproduction.

He was part of many television shows including *Nouvelle Adresse, Mensonges, Les Invincibles, Le Négociateur, Virginie, Marguerite Volant* and *Les Filles de Caleb.* 

He received nominations for four Genie Awards, three of them for his roles in *Maria Chapdelaine* (1983), *Lucien Brouillard* (1983) and *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986) and one for Best Screenplay (with co-writer Yves Simoneau) for *Intimate Power*, in 1986.

He was also president of the Union des artistes for eight years. The UDA is the main union group for cinema, theatre and television actors in Quebec.



# Vincent Leclerc

#### Jean-Claude

Talented and versatile, Vincent Leclerc gets noticed for his work on television and in cinema, and as much in French as in English. On the scene, we get to know him in *Lucidité passagère, Trout Stanley* or *The Beauty and the Beast*, in a European tour. In cinema, he was directed by many renowned film makers such as Rolan Emmerich (*White house down*), Jonathan Levin (*Warm bodies*), Martin Doepner (*Rouge sang*) and Sylvain Archambault (*Piché: The Landing of a Man*). We also can see him in *The Revenant* from Alejandro Gonz González Iñárritu.

On television, he worked in more than 30 productions such as *Mauvais Karma, Being human, Toute la vérité, Mirador, 19-2, Les Beaux malaises, Le Clan, This life, Bad Blood, Bellevue.* Pour his role in the webseries *Coming Out,* he received a nomination at the Canadian Screen Awards in the category *Best Performance in a Program or Series Produced for Digital Media.* 



Vincent embodies in an eloquent way the mythic character of Séraphin Poudrier in the series *Les pays d'en haut*, airing on Radio-Canada. This role got him 3 nominations since 2016 at the Gala Artis in the category Actor in a lead role – series, a Gémeaux award in for Lead role in a series in 2016 and a nomination in this same category the following year. Since this winter, we can see Vincent in the popular series *District 31* incarnating Maxime Vézeau.

# Patrick Émmanuel Abellard

Jacmel Rosalbert

Patrick Émmanuel Abellard is a bilingual artist who graduated from the professional theater program of Dawson College in 2015. Since then, he has kept busy. Some of his stage credits include *Urban Tales* (Harry Standjofski, Centaur Theatre), *Fight On* (Guy Sprung, Infinitheatre), *Race* (Winston Sutton, Montreal Theatre Ensemble) and *Sidewalk Chalk and Squawk* (J. Abdallah/Dean Fleming). On TV, Patrick played recurring characters in *Bellevue*, directed by Adrienne Mitchell (CBC), *District 31* and *Unité 9*, both on Radio-Canada.

Patrick made his big screen debut in Xavier Dolan's *The Death and Life of John F. Donovan*. Also interested in writing and directing, he created two shows in 2015, *Evolution of Oppression* and *Brain People*.



# Florence Longpré

Linda

On television, Florence plays in the show *Like-Moi!* in addition to lending her features to the character of Nanette in the popular TV Show *Les Pays d'en haut.* In the fall of 2018, she'll be Garnotte in the new youth series *Les Sapiens* which will be broadcast on Radio-Canada and TFO. Also on television, you were able to see her in the shows *Mémoires Vives, Plan B, 19-2* and *La Galère*.

On stage, she recently was in the cast of *Hurlevents* by Fanny Britt, directed by Claude Poissant and presented at the Denise-Pelletier Theatre. Also an author, she is the cowriter, with Nicolas Michon, of the plays *Chlore* and *Sylvie aime Maurice*, both presented in 2015 and in the winter of 2017 at La Licorne.



On the big screen, she had a role in the movie *Threesome*. As a member of the LNI and the LIM, Florence has also been an outstanding improv player for many years.

# Eddy King Vladimir François

Born in France and of Congolese descent, Eddy moved to Quebec in his teens. Eddy discovered his artistic abilities through rap music. He established himself on stage after discovering a passion for stand-up and a stylistic ease in both English and French

Since 2015, he has been performing regularly in galas, festivals and comedy nights. He has also lent his voice to the animated series, *The Awesomes*, as Madame Moumbarou.



# **Denise Robert**

#### Producer

Denise Robert has produced numerous international award winning films and tv series. Amongst them, Best Foreign Language Academy Award winner *The Barbarian Invasions*, *Days of Darkness* and *Stardom* (Denys Arcand), *The Confessionnal* (Robert Lepage), *The Rocket* (Charles Binamé), *Mambo Italiano* (Émile Gaudreault), *Father and Guns I & II* (Émile Gaudreault) which have both won a Golden Screen Award for the highest grossing Canadian film at the box-office in 2010 and 2017, and *1:54* (Yan England), a film on cyberbullying which was shown at the United Nations Headquarters in New York followed by a discussion with world-renowned experts on the subject.

Denise Robert is a member of the prestigious Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and the *Académie des arts et techniques du cinéma* (César).



She is a member of the Order of Canada and has received the grade of Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters (France) and in the Order of La Pléiade.

More details and complete filmography at <a href="https://www.cinemaginaire.com">www.cinemaginaire.com</a>

# Crew

Director & Screenwriter Denys Arcand

Producer Denise Robert

Associate producers Victor Loewy

Dominique Besnehard

Patrick Roy

**Martin Desroches** 

Director of Photography Van Royko

Art Director Patrice Bengle

Set Decorator Michèle Forest

Editor Arthur Tarnowski

Original Score Mathieu Lussier

**Louis Dufort** 

Sound Design Marie-Claude Gagné

Sound Martin Desmarais

Louis Gignac

Costumes Sophie Lefebvre

Key Lighting Daniel Dallaire

Key Grip Guillaume Canniccioni

Visual Effects Supervisor Jean-François Ferland

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director Anne Sirois

Casting Lucie Robitaille

Extras Casting Carole Dionne

Key Hairdresser Chantal Bergeron

Key Make-up Artist Jeanne Lafond

Line Producer Christian Ménard

Post-production Manager Georges Jardon

Production Accountant Anik Fournier

### **Informations**

Genre:

Original version:

Other version:

Ratio: Sound:

Shooting place: Shooting format: **Exhibition format:** 

Release date:

Length:

Comedy-drama

French

French with English subtitles

2:39 5.1

Montreal Digital

**DCP** 

June 28th 2018 129 minutes



#### Produced with the financial participation of

















#### **Media Relations**



#### Sophie Bilodeau

Manager - communications

Office: 514-878-6821 / mobile: 514-978-3890

sbilodeau@filmsseville.com

#### **International Sales**



#### **Anick Poirier**

International sales VP

Office: 514-878-4419 / mobile: 514-827-6428

anickp@filmsseville.com

To download photos, press kit, excerpts and trailer: <a href="http://medias.lesfilmsseville.com">http://medias.lesfilmsseville.com</a>

#### SONY PICTURES CLASSICS ACQUIRES DENYS ARCAND'S THE FALL OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

**NEW YORK (May 16, 2018)** – Sony Pictures Classics announced today that they have acquired all rights in the US, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand to Academy Award® winner Denys Arcand's THE FALL OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE. The film, a follow up to his critically acclaimed and Oscar-nominated THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE, is written and directed by Arcand and produced by Academy Award® winner Denise Robert.

Thirty years after THE DECLINE, THE FALL OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE explores the predominance of capitalism in a society where all other values seem to have crumbled. Pierre-Paul Daoust, 36, an intellectual with a PhD in philosophy is forced to work as a deliveryman to afford a decent living. One day, while delivering a parcel, he gets caught in a hold up gone terribly wrong: two dead and millions in money bags laying on the ground. Pierre-Paul is confronted with a dilemma: leave empty handed, or take the money and run?

Alexandre Landry (GABRIELLE) stars as Pierre-Paul Daoust with newcomer Maripier Morin, Louis Morissette (THE MIRAGE), Maxim Roy (LOOK AGAIN), Pierre Curzi (THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS), Vincent Leclerc (THE REVENANT), Patrick Émmanuel Abellard, Florence Longpré (THREESOME), Eddy King and Rémy Girard (THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS).

The film reunites Arcand with Michael Barker and Tom Bernard after previously working together on Sony Pictures Classics' LOVE AND HUMAN REMAINS and Orion Classics' JESUS OF MONTREAL. Arcand was awarded the Oscar® for Best Foreign Language Film for THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS.

"I am truly excited to come back to Sony Pictures Classics and to be reunited with Michael Barker and Tom Bernard. They are the best in the business, and they know perfectly well what kind of audiences are going to be touched by this film. I made this film in a spirit of absolute freedom and they certainly are the best people to take care of it," said Denys Arcand.

Said Sony Pictures Classics, "Denys Arcand is back with a satirical spirit as biting and as perceptive and as entertaining as he has ever been! It's great to be back with him and bring his new robust work to the American audience."

The deal was negotiated by Anick Poirier from Seville International and Denise Robert from Cinemaginaire.