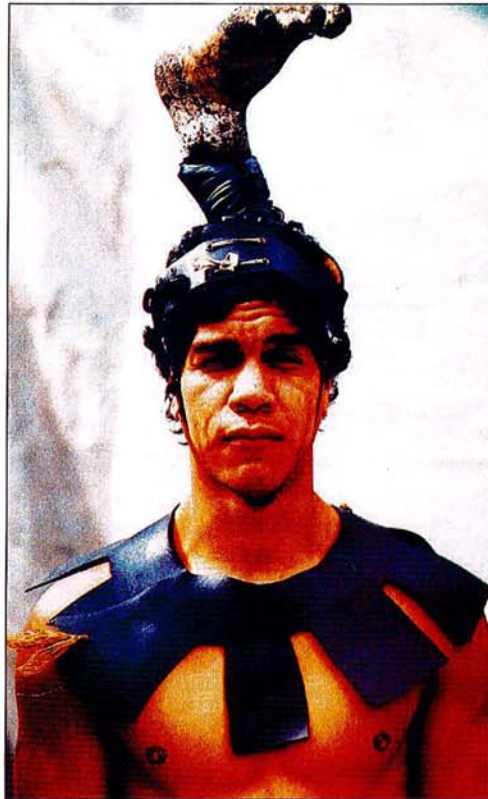


Support system: acrobat Raquel sits astride her partner, ringmaster Pierrot Bidon. He refers affectionately to her as his 'little wife'



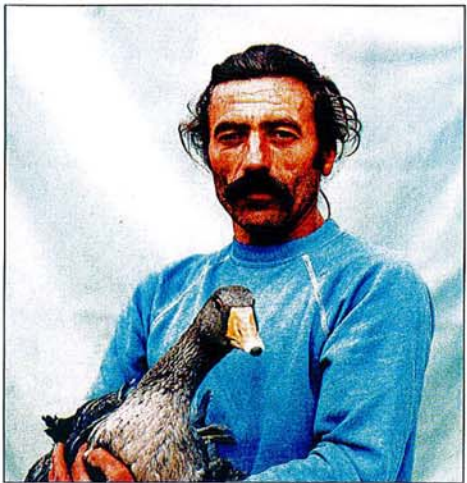
Head over heels: in her act Raquel defies gravity by balancing on the foot which the eccentricity attired Michael wears on his head



The Amazonian Sankey from south London (above right) is lighting technician for the circus. Her assistant Rosa (left) impaled her foot on a tent peg while working



Bibo, a student at circus school in Berlin, helps out in the holidays. She made Sabine and Jean-Pierre's dresses



Birds of a feather: stagehand Max with one of the geese which forage around the circus caravans - neither has an easy existence



Three guys named Laurent: Pierre, on drums, and Franz, the stunt biker's stand-in, on trombone, make up the rest of the band



Rope artist Isabelle attempts to hypnotise an unsuspecting chicken. Her act involves swinging 360 degrees through the air suspended by her foot



Daredevil Franz is happy to act as stand-in for the stunt motorcyclist who's in a Berlin hospital after injuring himself during the show