

*Archaos*  
**DURRANT'S**

TEL: 01-588-3671

103 WHITECROSS STREET, LONDON EC1Y 8QT

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# Give us a smashing time, beg crazy gang

IF YOU want to get rid of an old banger rusting away in the garage, look no further than the French circus Archaos.

The 80 chainsaw-juggling self-confessed circus "crazies" will smash it up, enthusiastically, on stage in front of hundreds of people. If, that is, they have any performers left who are not in hospital, in plaster or just plain insane by the time they get to Manchester from Barcelona.

The founder of the outrageous circus, Pierrot Boudin, tells me that he has a used car crisis. "We need about eight cars a week to burn out and throw off the stage," he says. "Can the public or a scrapyard help? If you hate the car your other half drives, you can put it to good use. But no insurance jobs, please."

His usual banger supplier is Pamela Quin, the only Frenchwoman licensed to blow up buildings. The demolition expert, who performs pyrotechnic stunts for Archaos, is in a French hospital with burns injuries

after her "human fire-work" act went wrong.

As well as Quin, other performers who started the European tour in Paris will be laid up when Archaos pitches its big top in Manchester's Platt Fields from June 27 to July 15.

Now out of action are: British acrobat Sue Brent, with a twisted back; a French showman with a broken collarbone; Eric, the fire-eater, who has a broken foot; and a sound engineer who ripped his buttocks on a rogue nail.

Perhaps they should consider themselves lucky. French journalist Cyril Kasmese was assigned to write a feature on Archaos — he now dons a leather jock strap, describes himself as Dogman and dives through flaming hoops.