

Archaos

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# Circus call it a day

THE zany antics of the world's wildest circus have gone up in smoke.

Circus Archaos have gone bust — which means there will be no more topless trapeze artists, cackling chainsaw jugglers or mad motorcycle stuntmen gracing the grassy stage of Leith Links at this year's Edinburgh Festival.

A disastrous tour of North America, poor audiences in London and Paris and a costly episode when their new tent collapsed in Dublin have left Archaos with debts of thousands of pounds.

Circus spokesman Mark Borkowski said today: "The days of chainsaw-wielding heavy metal maniacs are over — and I can tell you there are a lot of debtors out there who are awfully sad about it."

He revealed that Circus International, the British holding company for Archaos, had gone into liquidation and said there was no hope of the French troupe returning to the Capital.

"Edinburgh really took Archaos to its heart but I am sure there are a lot of health and safety officers who will sleep a lot more soundly now," he added.

Three years ago, the controversial circus came crashing onto an unsuspecting Fringe, leaving audiences shell-shocked but shouting for more.

They returned as part of the International Festival in 1990 and last year, performing their unique programme of daring stunts, spectacular pyrotechnics and raunchy set-pieces to packed Big Tops.

Fringe administrator Mhairi Mackenzie Robinson said the demise of the group was a sad loss.