

Archao

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THE LONDON EVENING STANDARD

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Big Top hangs in the balance

CONTROVERSIAL circus Archao faces a strike by angry performers.

They banded together to support a trapeze artist who refused to work because of ropes left out in weekend rain.

Thousands of fans were forced to wait as the cast threatened industrial action before last night's show in south London.

After tense negotiations the show—which features a "chain-saw execution" and near-naked gymnasts—went on only 15 minutes late. But there are fears the dispute may continue and affect tonight's show. After the per-

formance under the big top at Clapham Common, producer Adrian Evans said the artist's future with the circus was still uncertain.

He said: "The performer's ropes were allowed to get wet over the weekend. He did not wish to perform on Tuesday and we respected that."

"This has created a few problems as to why the rope was allowed to get wet and whose responsibility it was."

It is believed the man refused

to perform again last night despite the rope being dried.

Mr Evans said: "He did not perform with us, which has created a few internal problems. At the moment his future is uncertain—that is, he may or may not be with us tomorrow."

"Obviously problems occur when anything happens in a tight-knit group like this, who have been performing together for a year now."

The circus's run is due to finish on 11 November, but will be followed by a combined show of Archao's two groups, running until 25 November.



Near-naked gymnasts featured in Circus Archao