

ARMY OF FRINGE

GIRL SARAH

BY IAN METCALFE

A CIRCUS high-wire girl may never walk again after a horror plunge at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Sarah Sankey, who doubles as an electrician and trapeze artiste in the zany French circus, fell 30 feet inside a big top.

Now she may face months of delicate surgery for SIX broken bones in her back.

Circus Archaos boss Pirrot Bidom said last night: "We are waiting to hear if she will ever walk again."

"Certainly it will be many months. It is very sad."

"Sarah is a lovely girl who adored life in the circus."

"Now she may have to have metal in her back for life."

Sarah was said to be stable and comfortable in Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary last night.

Sarah, 23, from London, joined the circus - famed for its dangerous acts like juggling with chainsaws - as an electrician last November.

But she soon fell in love with the show and began to take part in performances.



**Horror
30 ft
plunge
in the
big top**

Part of her act was to run into the ring with her tools - then swing to the high wires pretending to do repairs to the lighting.

Ironically, she WAS fixing the lights when she fell.

Circus spokesman Mark Borkowski said: "We never use safety nets and have a reputation for danger."

"Last year we had 13 casualties."

The circus, billed in the Festival Fringe programme as "exhilarating, dangerous and sensational," is backed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Archaos opens at Leith Links tomorrow.

● Edinburgh District Council have banned the circus from using hypnotised CHICKENS during an act involving chainsaws.

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