

Archaos

DURRANT'S

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## CLOWN BROKE BOTH ARMS IN CRAZY CIRCUS STUNT

**T**HERE were gasps of horror in Edinburgh's famous Princes Street when a motorcyclist rode over the roof of a car, bringing busy traffic to a shocked standstill.

The Citroen car had stopped at traffic lights, when the motorcyclist raced across the busy street, mounted the front of the car, shot across its roof then bounced down to the road and roared away.

Police were less than amused when it was revealed that it was all a stunt to publicise the mad-cap Archaos Circus from France, currently appearing at the Edinburgh Festival and due to arrive in London later next month.

### Chainsaws

The circus was already in trouble with local safety officials who banned Archaos' top crowd-puller, a performer juggling live chainsaws on a high wire, saying it was too dangerous.

Danger, though, is what Archaos is all about.

Fourteen people from the circus, which features hair-raising motorcycle stunts, iron bar fights and people setting themselves

on fire, have been injured over the past year.

In the most recent incidents, a girl trapeze artist damaged her spine after plunging 30 feet while rehearsing, while a clown broke both his arms when he mistimed a turn during a fight with crowbars.

The Edinburgh audience were in no danger from the chainsaw juggler though — he was already in hospital after dropping one of the chainsaws on his foot while practising.

"He didn't break his leg," circus founder and ring-master Pierrot Bidon assured The Weekly News.

**LAUGH  
LINES**



● Actor—"It's not fair, I have to die in the first act."

Producer—"You're lucky, if you played the second act the audience would kill you!"—P. S., Royston.

"Just a few bones in his foot — he'll be juggling again."

Stefan the chainsaw juggler counted himself lucky — recently three of his fellow performers were all hopping about in plaster after a rash of broken legs.

During the circus's last tour of London, 30 performers were injured. Seven broke arms and fingers during a tour of Copenhagen earlier this year and another had all his teeth smashed out when a stunt with a sledgehammer went wrong.

### Tattooed

Perhaps not surprisingly, none of the 50-strong troupe are from circus backgrounds and few had performed under the big top before joining Archaos.

"Archaos is about life," said Pierrot, the heavily tattooed ex-soldier turned ring-master. "And life is danger, excitement and madness.

"We are all completely mad in Archaos but we love life, we love danger and danger is very much part of our circus."