

Pick of **THE WEEK**

THE LAST SHOW ON EARTH

Just when contemporary circus seemed to be heading for oblivion having lost the name

it once had for unequalled spectacle and danger along come Archaos to breath new life into the genre with their death-defying show that is at once very much part of the twentieth-century with props such as fork-lift trucks and lorries, while seeming to take much of its inspiration from gladiatorial games rather than Gerry Cottle.

For two hours, the huge top on Leith Links resounds to the sounds of a six-piece band playing rock and jazz, as dancers, jugglers, acrobats, fire-eaters and hordes of other performers one can only classify as lunatic buffoons, risk life

and limb during the performance. A huge barbarian of an acrobat who swings high above the sand held only by a rope around his foot is followed by a demonic, bald dancer dressed in green fur, intent on seducing all the cast and a good part of the audience, male and female alike. Two warriors clad in corrugated iron slug it out with chain-saws, while a clarinetist descends from the heavens, head-first and still playing.

Forget fabricated, no-risk TV or cinema stunts. Once you have felt your pulse race with Archaos the only way to match the excitement is do the acts yourself – and that I do not recommend.

WJS

*Archaos/Venue 121-Leith
Links/Aug 11-Sept2 (not
Mons), 8.30pm (10.00),
Matinees Sats. and Suns.,
3pm (4.30).*