

Archaos
DURRANT'S

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Zut, can this be love for Ramon the acrobat?

Festival diary

Archaos

We find Archaos people in the back bar of the Port O'Leith pub talking about their experiences of bringing European circus to Scotland and reflecting on their philosophy of life...

CORALIE (actress): "The Scottish audience is very easy, maybe because not a lot of things happen in Scotland. People are very kind, but I ask myself, do people really like our show or do they just like us because we are French? Even when we don't play well they still love us. I'd like to see a very Scottish show to know if they have a new Scottish culture."

Adrian (producer): Michael Clark is a very well known Scottish dancer.

Coralie: Yes I know him, he was in Edinburgh last year but I didn't know he was Scottish. But I still feel that Scotland is a cultural hole. Scots people are very simple and that is fantastic. In London, for instance, shows always make them think a lot, but here they only say "This show made me dream" instead of saying: "Oh! I really like the image of the blind trapezist, but I don't think she is really blind..." The difference between here and Barcelona is enormous because the Spanish blood is very hot. People dance naturally after the show, there's no need for us to encourage them. People either love the show or they hate it. British sensibility is more reserved and in Paris it is even worse.

Ramon (acrobat and dancer): For me, I prefer Scotland because I am in love with a Scottish man. This is a bit crazy because the men here wear skirts and normally I like them with tight trousers — like mine. Also, Edinburgh is a bit bourgeois, Glasgow was more popular.

Coralie: Yes, but in Edinburgh there is a festival ambience.

Ramon: I agree. So, like I said, it is a bit bourgeois.

Coralie: It is a popular festival because a lot of people drink like crazy and laugh and have a good time and not, like they all do in Avignon, just take coffee

and keep their fist at their forehead.

Sophie: (Actress): Sure, it's better here.

Ramon: Anyway, I prefer Irish men.

Helmut: (German musician from Chihuahua): I feel that people are happier in Scotland than they are in England. Not only when they come to our show but also in their own life. Scottish people really enjoy themselves, they have a rock 'n' roll mentality. Edinburgh is a very nice city in which you can find the heat of Latin people and the wiliness of the German people. German people are boring. French people have no brain. The Scots are perfectly situated halfway between Spain and Germany and I know what I am talking about because I only meet real Scottish people. I am not interested in culture vultures.

Eric: (lighting engineer): Scottish people are very sympathetic. Last night I was with a very sympathetic and beautiful Scottish girl. In Bristol we are cultural terrorists so I am sure I will find very many beautiful Bristol girls.

Amar: The big difference between Spanish, French and British is that they don't speak the same language. But a beautiful girl is always a beautiful girl.

Micky: Scottish people are very rich. We see that at the box office but even between Glasgow and Edinburgh they speak a different language.

Coralie: But Avignon Festival is much more snobbish than the Edinburgh Festival isn't it?

Eric: I don't know, I only go to the Edinburgh Festival to listen to rock 'n' roll music.

Coralie: Pierrot, what do you think?

Pierrot (Archaos god): I think there are more beautiful Spanish girls in Spain than there are beautiful Spanish girls in Scotland.

Coralie: Zut, haven't you anything more interesting to say?

Pierrot: But that is very interesting.

Regular Of The Port, O Leith: The only difference is that the Spanish talk in Spanish, the Scots talk in Scots and all the others talk English.

● Archaos plays at Leith Links until September 1.