



Pierrot Pillot-Bidon . . . "The purpose of Archaos is to make people realise that you have to rise above all this *merde*"

The chainsaw massacre

Archaos, the French motorbike and chainsaw circus, has been banned in Bristol after the tabloids called its acts 'indecent'. **Pierrot Pillot-Bidon**, the troupe's founder, has this to say

BRISTOL City Council has banned Archaos; this sentence makes me feel as though my head has been cut off by a chainsaw.

"The quality of your show is not the reason for our ban," said the council when they telephoned to give us the news. "The committee of people we sent to see Archaos thought it was really good. The only problem is the fuss you have caused in the press."

Here we are and my head has fallen off. Archaos is decapitated by a phone call. The most stupid I have ever heard.

Archaos is too small to fight against so much absurdity and also Archaos is too serious and too busy. In this show, Bouinax, there is no vulgarity, no outrageous sex scenes, no dangerous aggression, only sensuality, violence and enormous

tenderness, as there is in life.

Archaos's shows are directly inspired by life, and Bouinax is particularly dedicated to all the lonely people in the world: lonely in their work, in their life and in their cities. Lonely people with no love.

With circus acts and contrasting images, Archaos tells the story of life. A story with a lot of humour, because in fact life is a game, a really funny game that is full of hope.

For me, the best reward in this life is the end of the show when I see the audience going out of the big top: their hearts big and with smiles from ear to ear. This means a lot. The most important thing is that everyone takes home from Archaos the gift of two hours of happiness — an unforgettable souvenir.

The absurd ban by an irresponsible council, and attacks in the gutter press, will not stop

our audience coming in thousands to share with us these moments of happiness. Archaos is sold out wherever it is allowed to go.

The most dramatic thing about this decision is the fact that the inhabitants of Bristol are deprived of the right to see our show. The council has removed from them the possibility to choose to come to Archaos or not. This is a serious attack on their fundamental liberties, especially when the quality of the show is not the reason for the ban but only the controversy spread by a certain section of the press.

I am really proud of this controversy because it tells me that Archaos is really popular. Of course, the press twists the truth to feed itself, but this gives us really good publicity!

The purpose of Archaos is not to shock, but to make people dream and to realise that you have to rise above all this *merde*.

In fact, Archaos is the most important circus enterprise in Europe, with over 200 workers. Archaos is not only "a sex business", it is also an organisation that runs two circuses that tour all over the world, a TV company, a tent-maker, a theatre set-builder and a circus

school. All highly supported by the French Government.

On June 25, Jack Lang, the French Minister of Culture, sent a letter to the Lord Mayor of Bristol in support of Archaos. He said: "I really want to congratulate you for the hospitality that you will give to Archaos, a company of the highest quality, that mixes together in a very successful way, good humour and artistic virtuosity. Through this visit I am convinced that the quality of cultural exchange between your country and mine will be reinforced."

Archaos's show was supposed to play in Bristol in September. It is too late now to organise another venue, so if you are in Bristol with a big garden, an empty field or a spare football pitch, please call us.

What will happen to the 110 people involved in this show if we cannot go to Bristol in September? The council decision to ban Archaos has many serious consequences: 110 Archaos people with no work for a month, and also 25,000 frustrated spectators.

The ban is a big insult to the people of Bristol, to Archaos, to the French Government and, above all, to individual liberty.