

REVIEW

Fiery fiery nights

■ KATE KELLAWAY
on performances by
demonic Catalans,
satanic Frenchmen
and raucous Russians.

The devils face competition this year from **Archaos**, a satanic French circus. There is talk of closing the circus and already the chainsaw juggling act has been banned. What remains is terrifying but unforgettable; motorbikes prance like mad ponies, men strapped to sheets of corrugated iron crash into each other, exhaust fumes choke the audience and decadence rules. In a kinky version of Ancient Greece, a man lies down on a bed of nails.

A juggler dances beautifully as if he is made of water. A

trapezist looking like a depraved caveman performs several macho aerial feats. I was just beginning to relax when the aforementioned trapezist approached me, grabbed my hair, pulled my head up, and planted a bristly kiss on my lips. It's a novel way of trying to please a critic.