

Bizarre 'sex circus' given the all-clear



■ A member of the controversial Archaos circus troupe

FRENCH circus troupe Archaos, who were banned from Bristol as "too sexy", could be putting up their big top in Stroud next month.

The announcement that the world's trendiest circus act could be coming to town caused uproar last week with some councillors calling for a ban amid reports that the circus featured erotic scenes and homosexual acts.

But after long study of the circus' bizarre acts the council has announced it would be welcomed in Stroud.

Council leisure and tourism manager Alan Caig said the circus had been given the go-ahead to perform in the town from September 5 to 22.

"We are trying to get in touch with them to let them know our decision and see if they want to come," he said.

French-funded Archaos has been looking for the last few weeks for a venue to fill the space left after it was banned from Bristol.

by Michael Gubbins

"We are offering the chance to see something quite incredible," said spokesman Mark Borkowski.

He said the act was one of the hottest in the circus world. The troupe will be performing at the Edinburgh Festival later this year and has major dates in New York and Paris.

The raunchy dancing and updated versions of old circus cliches using motorbikes and chainsaws should offend no-one, said Mr. Borkowski.

But some critics say they are still very unhappy about allowing the circus — branded a "sex circus" by Bristol councillors — to come to Stroud.

Vicar Barry Coker said: "I would have thought the council is not serving the best interests of the town by letting them come."

"From what I have heard they rely on sexuality and violence. There is not much entertainment in that."

The Citizen. 8 Aug 1990