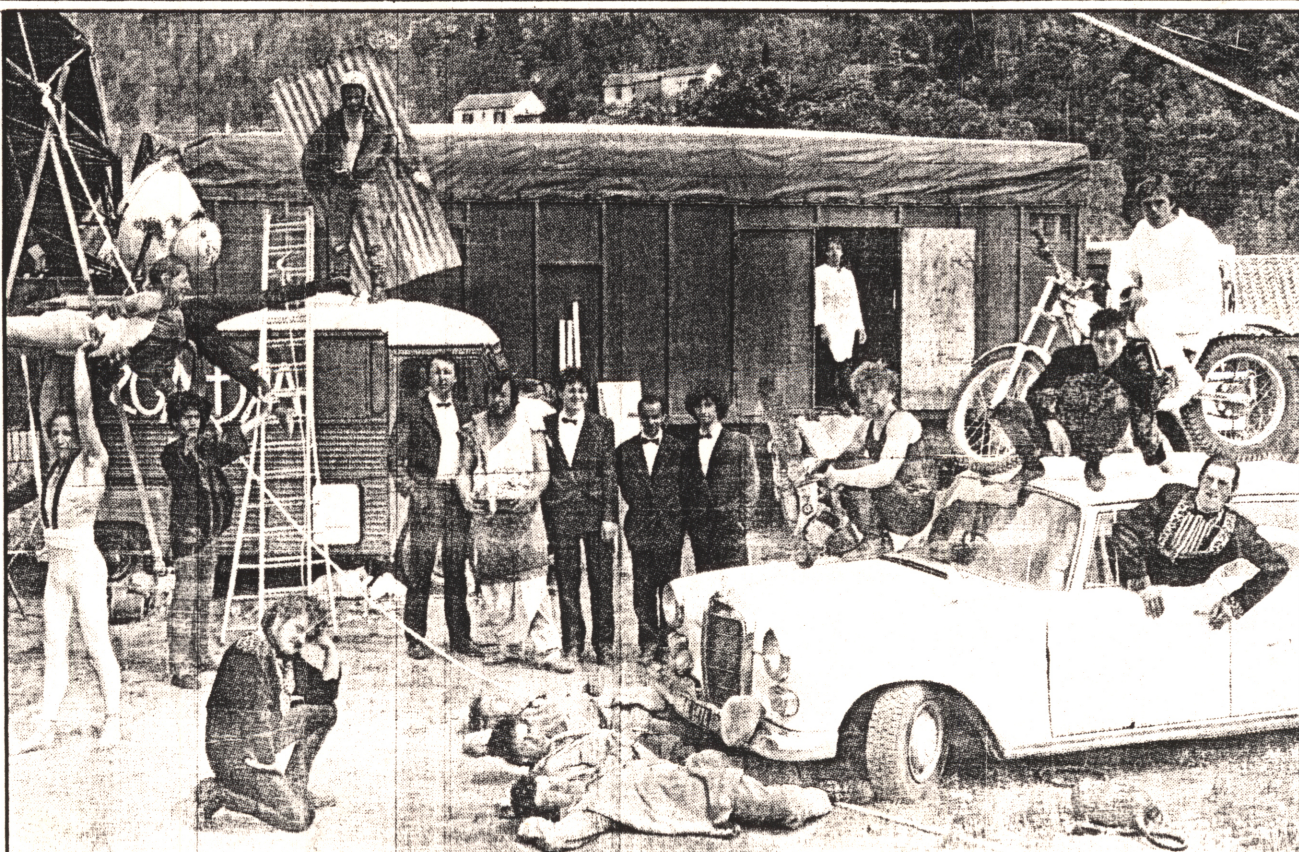




"Everything we say, we do. Everything we want, we find. Everything is important, but we don't give a damn." Pierrot Bidon Archaos' main man.



Archaos: the men, the machines and their madness took the London Festival of New Circus by storm.

CHAINSAW ACT CUTS A DASH!

By MARK GRAHAM

THE circus is coming to town. But it's not your normal circus. Oh no. This one's called Archaos and they make lion taming look as frightening as book-keeping.

Archaos took the London Festival of New Circus by storm last year with their whirlwind routine of chainsaw slapstick and motorised madness.

The Frenchmen put on the noisiest show on earth and have taken the circus into the machine age. Horses and caravans have given way to bikes and trucks.

Archaos have ditched the archaic in favour of straight entertainment and excitement.

"The circus must be relevant to society, it should change the everyday things into the bizarre," says troupe chief Pierrot Bidon.

Franz, one of the 55 strong troupe, turns an

everyday trail bike into a bizarre pendulum by using the back wheel as a winch. With a steel hawser wrapped round the rim, man and machine — suspended above the ring — become a throttle-controlled yo-yo. Mad enough for you? "Bouinax", the industrial clowns, have abandoned planks and paintbrushes for corrugated iron and sledgehammers. It's loud and dangerous.

"We're scared of being bored, we're always afraid of bad ideas. The risk makes the excitement," mused Monsieur Bidon.

Archaos are taking circus acts back to the bare bones of raw entertainment. It's Billy Smart meets Mad Max, it's an arena trial in Hell, it's irresistible.

Archaos will be in Edinburgh in August and London in September.



'Bouinax', mad, bad and probably dangerous to know, but they are undoubtedly good to watch.

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