

Pier jump bus stunt fears

OUTRAGEOUS performers plan to shock Brighton in a death-defying leap across a gap in the disused West Pier — in a bus.

French circus act Archaos, whose shows have been banned from some towns by councils which think they are too dangerous, come to Brighton at the end of October for a series of shows on the Level.

But they are planning a special stunt on Monday October 29 — a stunt which

even the group's promoter thinks is a little on the risky side.

"It's a crazy idea," said Dave Reeves, whose company Zap Productions is co-producing the Level shows.

If the all-important permission from the West Pier Trust is granted, a souped-up bus, with a racing car engine, and a possible crew of three, will be crane-lifted on to the first section of the pier before it shoots off a ramp and over the

expanse of sea to the far end of the pier.

The group plans to strengthen both sides of the pier to take the impact.

John Smith, former Tory councillor and chairman of the West Pier Trust, said: "It sounds an extremely dangerous, nearly impossible feat.

"We will look at their idea, but only if they come up with the necessary precautions and insurance. But I am not saying we will give it the go-ahead."