

# Carnival fun at Cavalcade

## 150,000 HELP LAUNCH FESTIVAL

**AROUND 150,000** spectators enjoyed baking sunshine yesterday as Edinburgh's city centre was turned into a giant carnival.

Families revelled in the fun as the annual Festival Cavalcade headed along Princes Street.

Samba dancers, stars of the musical *Annie* and performers from the Military Tattoo took part in the parade which marks the official opening of the Capital's festival season.

And Fringe stars, including the Ladyboys of Bangkok, joined mainstream acts in a procession of colourful floats as the world's largest arts festival got underway.

The 58th Edinburgh Festival Fringe will see

By KRISSTY STORRAR

more than 25,000 performances of nearly 1,700 shows being staged in a record 238 city venues.

And a third of all the acts will hold their world premiere in the Capital over the next three weeks.

Yesterday's Cavalcade was led by motorcyclists on Harley Davidsons, followed by the entire cast of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Performers from the Tattoo also put on a free mini-show in Princes Street Garden.

Stars such as Paul Merton, Mark Thomas, Jenny Eclair and Nancy Cartwright - the voice of Bart Simpson - are set to wow packed theatres throughout the Fringe.

And Hollywood star Christian

Slater should make his British stage debut in one of the hottest shows in town.

But the heart-throb is suffering chicken pox, forcing the first four scheduled nights of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* to be cancelled.

Slater, who starred in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, plays Randle P. McMurphy - a role made famous by Jack Nicholson in the Oscar-winning film of 1975.

The production, making its world premiere in Edinburgh, is co-directed by Tamara Harvey and playwright Terry Johnson after director Guy Masterson quit blaming stress.

A Fringe spokesman said: "It is just nice for everything to come together - for us to get a chance to meet the performers and put faces to names."



**STUNNING:** A Cavalcade dancer thrills watching children