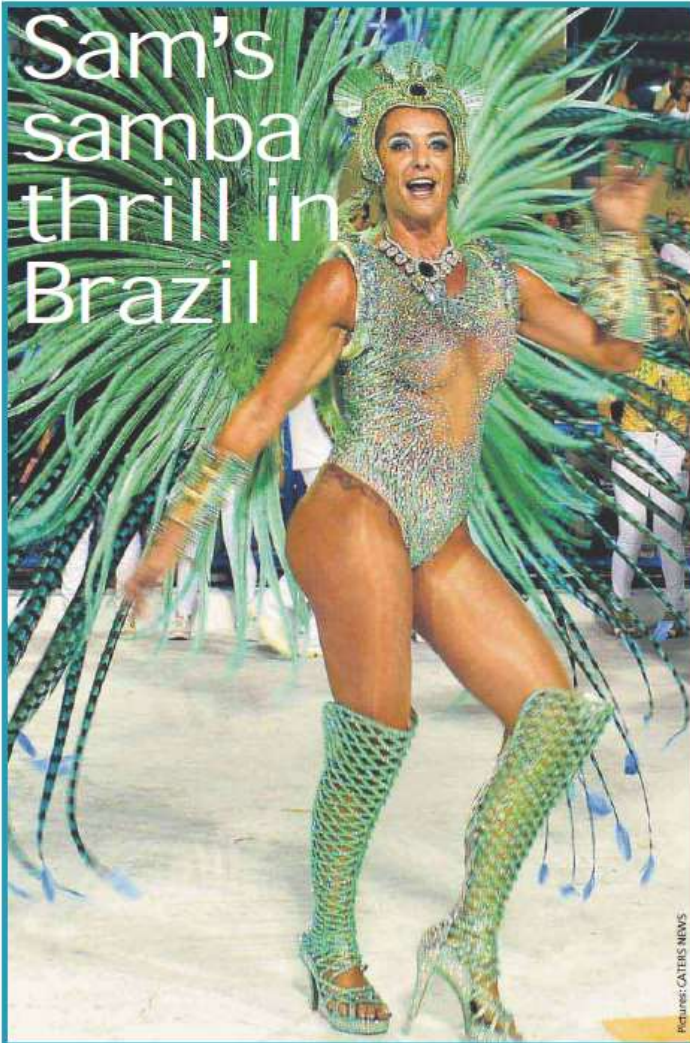


Sam's samba thrill in Brazil



Pictures: GATERS NEWS

by **Karen Rockett**

A BRITISH samba queen steals the show at the head of the first float at the Rio carnival.

Samantha Flores, 37, led millions of revellers dressed in a leotard decorated with 12,000 crystals, thigh-high boots and a plume of 500 feathers.

It is the first time a foreign dancer has led Brazil's world famous carnival.

Londoner Samantha said: "The amount of body

exposure in these costumes is a lot more than you would see in London but I'm used to things here.

"I was a bit shocked when I received the invitation. I am not a voluptuous Brazilian woman. I have a lot of respect for the carnival queens. They are unbelievable."



CARNIVAL: Samba parade