

Archaos

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Crowds grin as troupe bares it

SEMI-NUDE French performance artists are heading for a storm in Glasgow next week when they parade in only G-strings and body paint at international street festival, Streetbiz. And city authorities may be powerless to stop them.

Performers from the eight-strong troupe Ilotopie will wear next to nothing and cover themselves in dazzling paint as part of their act, *Les Gens De Couleurs*, during their British debut at Streetbiz. In another *risque* act, *La Mousse En Cage*, they will be locked in cages and covered with foam which slowly solidifies.

Ilotopie's daring walkabout has

intervened when Archaos was barred by Bristol City Council.

But sources say that, even if there is an outcry, there is nothing that officials could do to stop the show going on. It is thought that Ilotopie do not need a performance licence for their street display unless they are busking for money. Local police have already told *The Stage* they will not intervene unless there are complaints from the public.

Streetbiz, which is handling the troupe's publicity, admits it is gearing up for a controversy. But a spokeswoman assured: "All the crucial bits will be covered up and they are covered in glistening bodypaint so you can't see anything."

The left-wing city council, which is jointly funding Streetbiz with Labour-run Strathclyde Regional Council and sponsors Intercity and lager brand

Tennents, was not expecting a public protest.

A spokesman explained: "We have just had Archaos to great success so there should not be any problem with Ilotopie. People here have become used to more sophisticated entertainment. I do not think there will be an outrage although there will perhaps be an occasional embarrassed giggle."

Leader of the Tory opposition group, John Young, was a chief objector in the Archaos row and was again expected to protest. But this week he announced that he would raise no objections to Ilotopie providing that "certain parts of the anatomy were covered up."

Said Young: "The average Glasgow citizen will say 'I have seen it all before.' The only danger to the performers up here is from the weather conditions."