

Errol, a new name in fashion

IF THERE'S anything more enjoyable than success, it's instant success. First showing by a new young designer on the Cape Town fashion scene, 24-year-old Errol Arendz, resulted in a spate of orders — one for seven garments from one enthusiastic viewer alone. And by the time guests had finished the champagne cocktail which rounded off his parade, there were "sold" tags on a third of the collection.

"I'm confident now that there's room here for my type of clothes," a delighted Errol said. "I've been stagnating for the past 18 months, now I've got the courage to go ahead because it seems there are people who like my interpretation."

He not only designed the 32 garments he showed at his debut — a showing at Constantia which raised funds

for the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals — but made each one personally. "I did them in a month," said Errol, slightly-built and with long, face-framing hair, who set his heart on a career in fashion from the age of three.

"And that's no lie," he explained. "I could never resist fabric. Wherever I went I had to touch materials to enjoy the colour and texture. I still have sketches of the dolls' clothes I designed when I was five."

He studied design in Johannesburg and has travelled abroad. In Paris he showed his work to Dior, Cardin and Balmain. "They all raved. I asked them for an honest opinion and they said I had talent and should carry on."

In London Errol spent a month in the workshop of Zandra Rhodes, who he admires tremendously, and showed his designs to famous fashion names like Ossie Clarke, Jean Muir, Bill Gibb and John Bates.

"They make the fantasy, fun clothes I like doing."

Fantasy clothes says Errol,

are wonderful to wear, and to make — one doesn't feel one is working. One just keeps going. I can go through the night when I'm caught up in a design. Simple clothes take the glamour out of sewing for me."

It's fashion which plays around with colour and design which is noticed, Errol feels. "There are lots of beautiful tailored clothes, but you won't wear the label outside, so who knows where they come from? It's when things are fun and different that you get asked who made them."

He gets his ideas from the exotic colours and moods of the tropics. "I love the lushness and brilliance of the foliage. If I lived in the Seychelles I would probably go mad."

It's the Seychelles to which Errol owes his first step on the ladder of success.

A Cape Town client asked him to design a wardrobe for a holiday on the Seychelles for her. "She took everything I made and said they created comment whenever she wore them."



Twenty-four-old Errol Arendz who made his fashion debut in Cape Town this week, with models Mary (left) and Deidre. Mary is wearing Errol's "saphyr bleu", — royal blue satin wrapped in chiffon — and Deidre a full-circle gold moire taffeta skirt and tissue lace blouse with seed pearls on the double frilled neckline.



Deldre in "belle sud" which earned a round of applause. White muslin has bands of red stitching bordered with red satin ribbon in the skirt. The strapless blouson top is edged with satin and caught by a tie satin belt.

