

Durban play will launch "maximin" fashion

By BRIAN RUDDEN

A NEW South African play, "The Psychology of Sex," and a remarkable new fashion will be seen in South Africa this month.

The fashion is a "maximin," a dress that is "maxi" at the back but "mini" in the front.

The play, written by Natal-born actor, Peter Prowse, will open in Durban on July 23. It will be preceded that night by a fashion show featuring variations on the maximin theme, and the lithe-limbed actress Fran Dowling will wear an exaggerated version of the long-short dress in the play itself.

Compromise

"The maximin, which happens to fit well into the story of the play, is the perfect dress for women torn between the maxi and the mini," Mr. Prowse told me this week. "They feel the maxi hides too much while the mini gives the game away completely," he said.

The maximin should also be popular with girls whose legs looked better from the front than from the back, he added.

Prowse's "The Psychology of

Sex" is booked for a three-week run in Durban. "After that I will take it to Cape Town, and then I hope to Johannesburg," he said. He is directing the production personally, as well as playing the leading role.

Burial plots

Jimmy Casanova, the American entertainer, will also appear in the play, which, Prowse told me, "is basically the story of a meek and mild young man who makes a living by selling burial plots to newlyweds on the instalment plan ("pay now, die later").

The salesman sets out to change his personality. He visits a Jewish psychologist, who gives him certain advice — hence the title of the play.

"It has a message," says Prowse. "It doesn't pay to try to change the way you are."



Fran Dowling displaying the exaggerated version of the maximin dress.