

Before publishing the searing fiction for which he is best known and beloved as transgressor extraordinaire and cult hero, Dennis Cooper independently produced and edited twelve issues of Little Caesar Magazine in Los Angeles from 1976 to 1982. The zine was born of a surging punk spirit and quickly developed into a small cultural oasis, containing poetry and porno, essays and fiction, interviews and rock reviews that defined a community of now-legendary writers, artists, and musicians in their youthful prime. Dennis Cooper and his Little Caesars forever altered the tone and possibility of cultural risk-taking in LA; the city's current dynamism remains indebted to his seminal flowering and early public offerings.

From LITTLE CAESAR #1:

I think there are already too many little magazines around, mostly uninteresting and virtually unread. So why are Jim and I adding to the heap? Maybe we're crazy but we think there can be a literary journal that's loved and powerful. We want a magazine that's read by the Poetry fans, the Rock culture, the Hari Krishnas, the Dodgers. We think it can be done, and that's what we're aiming at.

I have this dream where writers are mobbed everywhere they go, like rock stars and actors. A predilection? You never know. People like Patti Smith (poet/rock star) are subtly forcing their growing audiences to become literate, introducing them to Rimbaud, Breton, Burroughs and others. Poetry sales are higher than they've been in fifteen years. In Paris ten year old boys clutching well worn copies of Apollinaire's ALCOOLS put their hands over their mouths in amazement before paintings by Renoir and Monet. Bruce Lee films close in three days. This could happen here.

Let us introduce ourselves. We're not fifty year old patrons of the arts. We're young punks just like you, and just because Kenneth Rexroth's got a name in some crowds doesn't mean a wink's gonna get his rickety old crap in here. He comes through the back door like everyone else.

We need your support and your art. We're looking for everything from poetry to fiction to musical scores to cartoons to porno. Please forgive LITTLE CAESAR while we're in our toddler stage, and stick with us. We could be on fire.