



## 42nd Street

# Heartless Core Of a Lonely City

*Pornography of the kind sold and shown on 42nd Street serves to show the worst men can do to one another, shows that indeed "The root of evil is the love of money."*

*On 42nd Street, "Adult" as an adjective means sex without sensuality, lust without love, and an appetite without appeasement. It's a cheat, a preying upon loneliness; that's what makes the new pornography so pitiful.*

*The porno sales on 42nd Street have not always been there, and their coming has meant a drastic change in what used to be one of the entertainment centers of New York City.*

*Where once there used to be cinemas showing the latest films, now jerry built theaters cater to the "You Must be 21 and Prove It" crowd. The Metropole Cafe, once the home of great jazz, now offers "Topless Go Go."*

*All the time the signs and allurements get more crude: outside one theater is hung in place of a marquee a large banner, ironically, made of white butcher paper. "The Management," it announces, "Consider these Pictures **HARD CORE PORNO** Films."*

*Two men stop by the window of a bar advertising "Sexy Topless Girls." As though with one mind, they lean forward to peek through the partly curtained window.*

*42nd Street is a street of suffering.*

*Even on a sunny afternoon, 42nd Street is a midnight place.*

*The crowds drift and surge across the littered sidewalks, past the banally obscene "Topless" and "Adult Magazines" signs, past the bookstores with no windows, past the "Camera Centers" filled with overpriced gimmicks.*

*Tension is everywhere in New York City these days, but people walking through the porno section seem to wear brittle masks.*

*Except for occasional shouts and curses, 42nd Street is curiously silent. Perhaps because there's nothing one can say. It's like Simon and Garfunkel's "Sounds of Silence."*

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY LAURENCE E. KEEFE

