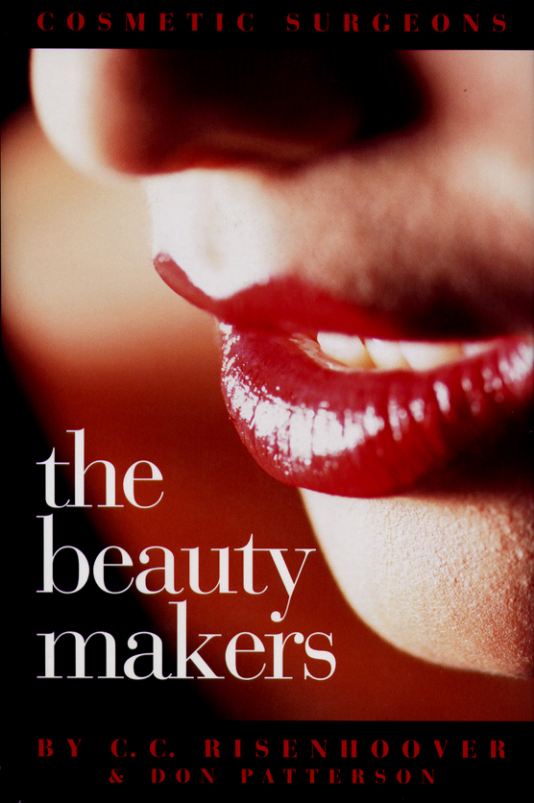


COSMETIC SURGEONS

A close-up, high-angle photograph of a woman's mouth. Her lips are coated in a vibrant, glossy red lipstick. Her teeth are slightly visible as she appears to be smiling or about to speak. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the texture of her skin and the sheen of the lipstick. The background is a blurred, warm-toned gradient.

the
beauty
makers

BY C. C. RISENHOOVER
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the beauty makers



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Dr. Renato P. Calabria

Dr. Renato P. Calabria said that what cosmetic surgery does for an individual is to bring out "confidence and positive feeling, which is critically important because a person's self-perception is paramount to his or her achievement in life."

The internationally renowned California-based plastic surgeon, who practices in Beverly Hills, Westlake Village, Palm Desert and Rome, Italy, said nowhere can the aforementioned be seen more clearly than during his pro bono missions to Central and South America.

"Those of us who have the privilege of living in America are very lucky people," he said, "and I think it is important to give something of what we have to the less fortunate people in the world. That's why other doctors and I go on these missions...to provide our expertise and talent at no charge to people who could never afford to pay for plastic surgery."

Dr. Calabria said the majority of his surgeries in these countries are on children with congenital defects, and that there was nothing more satisfying than a mother's smile following a successful procedure.

"There's no better pay than being able to do a surgery that helps a child or an adult feel better about her or himself," he said. "Being in these countries...helping these people...is a real change of pace from Beverly Hills. It brings you back to the reality of just how wonderful our country is."

"When I'm on one of these missions, I work from six o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night. There's no paperwork...just the satisfaction of getting the job done, seeing the transforming power of corrective surgery, and experiencing the gratitude of the people."

The doctor, who possesses a keen sense of humor, said that when growing up in Italy he wanted to be a writer, but that his