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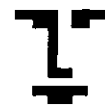
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Ian Young was born in London. His involvement in the gay movement, as activist, writer and publisher, began in the 1960s. His books include poetry, literary anthologies, bibliography and history. Director of a communications consultancy firm and a frequent contributor to the gay press, he lives with his partner Wulf in Toronto and Banff, Alberta.

The Stonewall Experiment

A Gay Psychohistory

Ian Young



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Cassell
Wellington House
125 Strand
London
WC2R 0BB

215 Park Avenue South
New York
NY 10003

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First published 1995

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 0-304-33270-4 (hardback)

0-304-33272-0 (paperback)

Typeset by York House Typographic Ltd, London

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Mackays of Chatham plc

The cover photograph shows a scene from *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men* performed by DV8.

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Chapter seven

The AIDS Concentration Camp

The ghetto has become . . . a sort of Nietzschean experimental laboratory which only supermen can survive.

— A resident of the Lodz Ghetto, c. 1943.

SOME time during the 1970s, the Pink Triangle replaced the Lambda as the most recognizable gay sign. The original pink triangles had been sewn onto the uniforms of homosexual men in Nazi concentration camps. They reappeared as powerful, ambiguous signs pinned, like arrow wounds, to the breasts of clones.

A black-and-white postcard from the late 1980s shows a pink triangle and a photo of traumatized, uniformed inmates behind barbed wire. The caption reads: 'QUARANTINE is a nice way to say . . . CONCENTRATION CAMP.' In 1986, gays in California had fought hard to defeat a ballot proposition to quarantine all PWAs. This was the brainchild of Lyndon LaRouche, a well-funded crypto-Nazi, and William Dannemeyer, a Republican congressman representing Disneyland. Veteran LaRouche watcher Dennis King wrote of the campaign: 'LaRouche scored a major ideological breakthrough for neo-Nazism in America. He took a previously taboo idea — enforced isolation for the scapegoat — and elevated it into a topic of legitimate discourse. He did this by reframing the discourse in pseudo-medical terms and targeting a minority less well organized than the Jews.'

The California quarantine proposal was not unique: rumblings from the Right included William F. Buckley's call for all HIV positives to be tattooed — intravenous drug users on the forearm, homosexuals on the buttocks. In Toronto a city councillor