

Contents

The Taste and Ache of Action vii

Preface to the U.S. Edition

Prologue 3

The Street and the Ring 13

An Island of Order and Virtue 17

"The Boys Who Beat The Street" 41

A Scientifically Savage Practice 58

The Social Logic of Sparring 77

An Implicit and Collective Pedagogy 99

Managing Bodily Capital 127

Fight Night at Studio 104 151

"You Scared I Might Mess Up 'Cause You Done Messed Up" 152

Weigh-in at the Illinois State Building 158

An Anxious Afternoon 171

Welcome to Studio 104 180

Pitiful Preliminaries 192

Strong Beats Hannah by TKO in the Fourth 208

Make Way for the Exotic Dancers 220

"You Stop Two More Guys and I'll Stop Drinkin'" 226

"Busy" Louie at the Golden Gloves 235

List of Illustrations 257

A Note on Acknowledgments and Transcription 263

Index 267