

London Boy

inside and outside
I was two different boys
inside my head I knew about the world
understood its beauty
and its poetry
understood my own place in it

outside I appeared to know nothing
found it hard to speak
even harder to speak my mind
I knew the difference
so I kept my eyes open
and mouth shut

I learned the lingo
knew what to wear
the tapered trousers
the narrow shoes
and mirrored sunglasses
that conceal the eyes

I learned to tell lies
to be on the outside
what wasn't on the inside

full of self doubt
I never learned how
to get my inside out