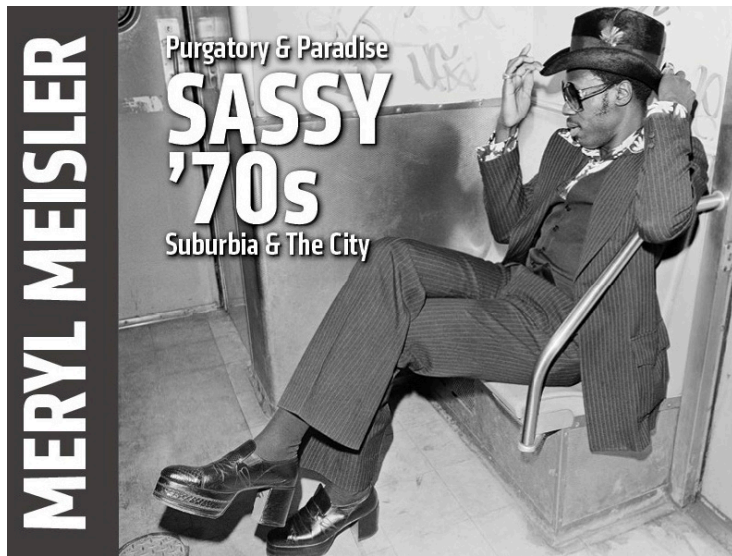


## media release

Bizarre Publishing &  
Black Box Gallery  
12 Jefferson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206  
Contact: Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire



bizarrepublishing@gmail.com  
facebook.com/bizarrepublishing  
Websites: bizarrebushwick.com  
merylmeisler.com



### Meryl Meisler's

#### **Purgatory & Paradise: SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City**

#### **Exhibition and Book Launch**

**Dates of Exhibit:** June 5 – September 5, 2015

**Purgatory & Paradise Party Night:**  
Friday, June 5, 7 PM – 4 AM

#### **Bushwick Open Studio hours:**

Saturday, June 6, 12 PM – midnight

Sunday, June 7, 12 PM – midnight

**Gallery Hours:** Daily, 11 AM–midnight

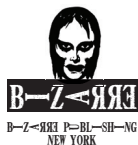
With great pride, Bizarre Publishing and Black Box Gallery present *Purgatory & Paradise: SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City*, Meryl Meisler's book launch and exhibition. Her first book *A Tale of Two Cities: Disco Era Bushwick* received worldwide attention for contrasting Disco's zenith and burned out yet beautiful '80s Bushwick. *Purgatory & Paradise: SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City* is the prequel, a photographic memoir of a uniquely American story, sweet and sassy with a pinch of mystery.

*Paradise & Purgatory: SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City* juxtaposes intimate images of home life on Long Island alongside NYC street and night life – the likes of which have never been seen. Quirky, nostalgic and a bit naughty, it's a genuine cultural capsule of a decade that captivates today's generation. The photos and stories illustrate Meryl's coming of age: The South Bronx, suburbia, The Mystery Club, dance lessons, Girl Scouts, the Rockettes, the circus, school, mitzvahs, proms, weddings, gay Fire Island, the Hamptons, feminists, happy hookers, CBGB, Punks, Disco, After Hours and Go-Go Bars, Jewish and LGBT Pride, street life, home theatrics, holidays, friendship, family and love. She had to photograph it to make sense of it all, to hold onto the time, to release and now finally share it. The '70s were sassy, but also sweet, and so was Meryl.

Meryl's introduction to purgatory and the importance of being open-minded, not pre-judging people, began with a 1957 childhood incident, being told "You can never go to heaven, the best you can do is purgatory" because she was Jewish. That's when Meryl learned about purgatory, and the importance of being open minded and not pre-judging people. Meryl moved to NYC in 1975, with her first paycheck she bought an antique edition of Dante's *Purgatory and Paradise* illustrated by Gustave Doré. She needed to "own it" literally and figuratively. Meryl carried her medium format camera everywhere with great delight – photographing the world she knew on Long Island– donning childhood uniforms and costumes for self-portraits, comedic insider views of family and friends homes, the hilarity of her parents' Mystery Club circle. "Not in mine eyes alone is Paradise," declares Dante in Paradiso. Many viewed '70s NYC as hell, purgatory at best. With an open mind and heart, Meryl found paradise photographing the streets and nightlife of The City, many so wild she never dared to show them until now.

## media release

Bizarre Publishing &  
Black Box Gallery  
12 Jefferson Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206  
Contact: Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire



bizarrepublishing@gmail.com  
facebook.com/bizarrepublishing  
Websites: bizarrebushwick.com  
merylmeisler.com



Self-Portrait, The Ballerina Meryl Meisler 1975

### Special Event Dates:

**Friday, June 5, 7:00 PM – 4:00 AM**

**Saturday, June 6, 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, June 7, 4:00 PM**

**Friday, July 10, 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM**

**Friday, June 5, 7:00 PM – 4:00 AM**

**Purgatory & Paradise Party**

with Drag Queens & Kings, Go-Go Dancers, DJs, Dancing and Mystery Mayhem

**Saturday, June 6, 6:00 PM**

Readings and Performances

Vanessa Mártir – This Isn't My Brooklyn

Emanuel Xavier – Author/Poet, Tedx Bushwick Speaker, LGBT Icon

Catherine Kirkpatrick –Introducing the Sassy '70s

Amy Leffler – The Mystery Behind The Mystery Club

Judi Jupiter –Queen of the B Girls

**Sunday, June 7, 4:00 PM**

The Drug Wars and Epidemic Incarceration, the '70s and Today

Discussion led by Dr. Ernest Drucker, author of *Plague of Prisons*

**Friday July 10, 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM**

Dr. Lisa Levy – Psychotherapy LIVE! with patient Meryl Meisler

Esther Cohen – Allen Ginsberg Or I Wanted To Be Him

Digital Guaracha (From Mambo to Boogaloo)

Purgatory & Paradise: SASSY '70s Suburbia & The City

Photographs and text by Meryl Meisler

Introduction by Catherine Kirkpatrick

Design by Patricia Jean O'Brien

Writing by Esther Cohen, Amy Leffler, Dr. Ernest Drucker and Emanuel Xavier

BIZARRE PUBLISHING

Photography / the 1970s / NYC / Long Island / Suburbia / Streetlife / Nightlife

Hardcover

8.5 x 11 inches

256 pages, 241 B&W photographs

ISBN: 978-0-9910141-3-2

\$45.00 USA/CAN

BIZARRE, 12 JEFFERSON STREET, BROOKLYN NY, 11206