

Puppeteer to bring 'Grandfather's Prayers' to life at Maltz Museum

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Lisa Sturz has worked as a puppeteer for more than 40 years, bringing to life a colorful array of characters in well-known films such as "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," "Muppets in Space" and "Howard the Duck," but her performance at the Maltz Museum July 16 will bring to life a different, more personal character: her grandfather.

"My Grandfather's Prayers" is based on the life of Sturz's grandfather, Izso Glickstein, and came to be after Sturz discovered a digitized recording of Glickstein singing. It was initially intended to be a five-minute piece honoring her grandfather at a performance in Sturz's native Boston. She quickly discovered five minutes would not do her grandfather justice and the piece became a full-blown marionette performance, detailing his travels, struggle and faith through puppets, marionettes, scrolling backgrounds and mixed media film



"My Grandfather's Prayers"

WHEN: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
July 16

WHERE: Maltz Museum
of Jewish Heritage, 2929

Richmond Road, Beachwood
TICKETS: \$15 general admission, \$10
for Maltz Museum members
INFO: Intended for adults and older
teens, with a discussion to follow.
Visit maltzmuseum.org/event/my-grandfathers-prayers/ or call
216-593-0575

sequences.

"To do any justice to this man at all, I needed to learn more," Sturz said. "And the more I learned, the more I was completely engaged in his story and singing."

She said the show has been a way for her to connect to her history.

"Through the show, I've been able to connect to my own Jewish history and identity, and helping the audience find



Puppeteer Lisa Sturz will perform "My Grandfather's Prayers" at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage July 16. | Submitted photo.

that on their own, and their connection to their elders, I think that's really valuable," she said.

Glickstein died in 1947, and Sturz never met him. But she did share

a small spoiler for the upcoming performance.

"In the show, I do meet him," she said. "I have a long scene with him and get to talk to him."