

THE MONODRAMA THEATER

# Oy Esterke

by *Alik Romm*

This is the story of a teen-age boy who started the war in the summer of 1941 between grade nine and grade ten and ended it three years later, deeply scarred by the events of the war.

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## Walking forward is to go back

This is Ephraim Romm's story, a **Holocaust survivor**, for whom "walking forward is to go back to your childhood" –from childhood to old age and back.

Ephraim Romm's childhood was one of war, Ghetto, hard work, and hiding. And, then, a courageous escape that got him out of the clutches of the **Nazis**, and into a search for his family or whatever was left of it.

Finally, there was **freedom**. **What freedom?** Is it ever possible to leave behind what he has been through and find real freedom?



ALIK ROMM THE MONODRAMA THEATER



EPHRAIM ROMM IN 1944 (AT EIGHTEEN), RIGHT AFTER HIS ESCAPE AND LIBERATION

## A Teen-Age Survivor

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More than sixty years have passed since the end of the **Second World War** and the Holocaust. The survivor generation is dying and with it the stories and memories of those who have been through the **Holocaust**. Soon there will not be any survivors alive and the stories of the survivors will die with them.

The monodrama "**Oy Esterke**" is based on one such story. It is the story of Ephraim Romm who was thirteen years old when the Second World War started in 1939.

Ephraim kept his story to himself for most of his life and only shortly before his death in November 11, 2011 wrote it down and shared it with his family.

## Esterke - A Doomed Five Year Old

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Ephraim's son, Alik Romm, used the story as the basis for this monodrama and is playing his father's impossible and incomprehensible journey. The Director of the play is **Yael Ambar**.

Ephraim's story is accompanied by the vision of **Esterke**, Ephraim's niece, a five year old girl with brown curls, a cheerful laughter, dimples, and a lot of hope.

Also interweaved in the story are other members of Ephraim's family who accompanied his journey during the war but did not survive, leaving him at the end, all alone.



## How to view the play?

Ephraim Romm's survival story is available at:  
[www.aish.com/ho/p/48949791.html](http://www.aish.com/ho/p/48949791.html)

The forty minute video of the monodrama "Oy Esterke" can be viewed at: [www.lilithwork.com](http://www.lilithwork.com)  
The password for the video is: **ALIK**

Also available at the above site is a Study Guide, which includes background information about the play, questions for discussion in class, and additional resources.

*Alik Romm is available to perform the play at your request. Please see his contact details.*

**Alik Romm**  
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