

The Dvorovoi who wasn't: *Photos*

(2017–2023,
before interviewing
Zeliboba's designer)



From 2009 to 2010, I'd gathered already four plush Zellies, all by GUND - a 60 cm one and three 30 cm ones. Sadly, neither them, nor any of those produced earlier by TYCO and Mattel (hadn't seen them "in the wild", just know from magazine articles) looked show-accurate enough.

And it's been only September 2016 when I accidentally went to check a site about handmade stuff and found a maker who had *Sesame* puppets (Zeliboba included!) for sale. They looked raw-ish, for she didn't seem to have proper references, but I decided to talk to her nevertheless.

Surprisingly, she agreed to correct the Dvorovoi's appearance, as well as make one (a 1 meter tall, plain plush, without puppet-y stuff) for me when she'll finish a few previous commissions. All I was to do was save up, draw references and send them to her.

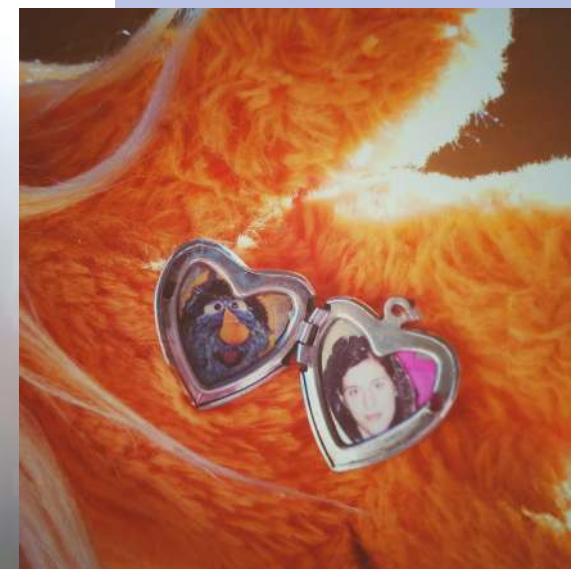
The maker and her husband (who helped out with making a wire frame) had been building Zeli from January to May 2017. I decided it'll be better to stick to a design similar to GUND's: in their version, Zeliboba has a coat that was actually removable, with a blue "vest" underneath. So in the end, he ended up looking part like the GUND plushie and part like I imagined him way earlier: nimble, light as wind and skinny as a mast. :) As a bonus, he received white frilly cuffs and a jabot to sometimes turn into a Prince Charming of the Dvorovoi kin.

Later, in Autumn 2020, I got to talk to his original designer Ed Christie. It turned out the fanon look the maker and I came up with was not right. So, having written down all the corrections and (in spring 2023) getting a chance to pack and mail him, I sent Zeli out to a different maker (this time from my own country) for a full upgrade.

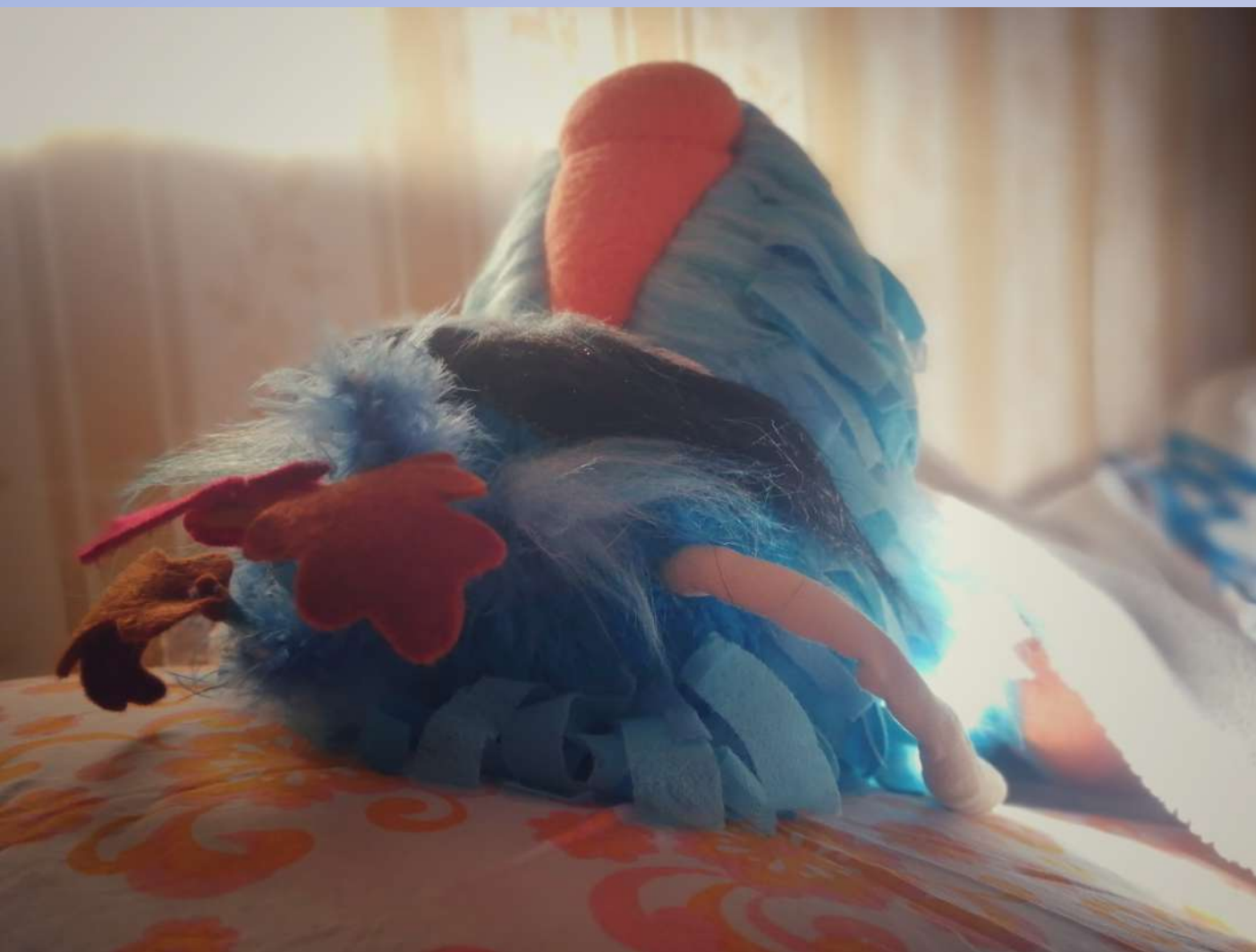
Photos of him in this album are all pre-upgrade. He will look even more show-accurate once he's back. His smaller plush selves and I are all waiting for that day! :)



Big plush Zeliboba by Maria "ProstoMashinoPuppets" Kerch. Photos by by Julia "Azure-Mischief" Kustova



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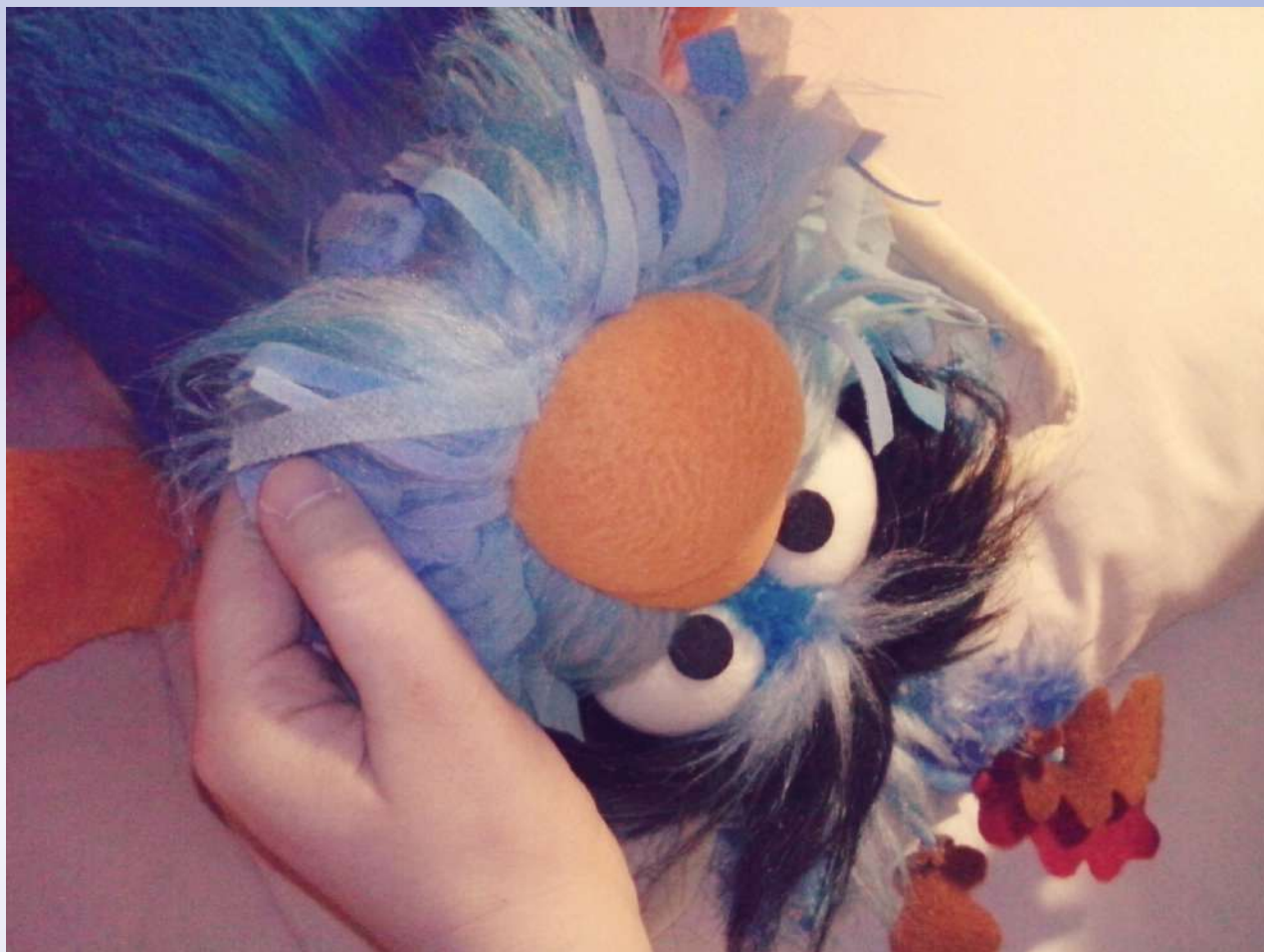
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Bonus: sneak peaks of my recent sketches for the maker - this time with Mr. Christie's words in mind.

Even though there's no way to make Zeliboba's coat actually non-removable on his big plush form, it will still look as magical and organic to him as possible, on magnets instead of velcro, and have pockets that were originally meant to be on it.

And under the removable sneakers will be soft white "forest boots".

