

Ljiljana Beric b. 7/11/81

Transcript of interview with Judy Caine - 9th April 2019

(N.B. – timecode numbers refer to the audio recording)

Judy Caine [00:00:02] This is Judy Caine. This is my first interview for the Serbian part of the changing Corby project. It's Tuesday, the 9th of April 2019 I'm with Ljiljana Berish, I think, who I'm going to ask to introduce herself give me her name properly and she's going to talk to me about Serbia. OK. Could you introduce yourself by giving me your full name and your date of birth please?

Ljiljana Beric [00:00:30] I'm Ljiljana Beric and I'm born on the 7th of November 1981.



Judy Caine [00:00:34] Thankyou, were you born in England or, where were you born?

Ljiljana Beric [00:00:37] I was born in Croatia.

Judy Caine [00:00:40] Tell me your story, how did you come to come to England?

Ljiljana Beric [00:00:45] I was born in Knin in Croatia. I lived there for 14 years and then in 1995 we left Croatia due to war, in August, and happened to travel to Serbia on a journey.

Judy Caine [00:01:19] When you said, 'we left', was that your whole family?

Ljiljana Beric [00:01:25] The whole town. I think, the whole part of, that part of Croatia.

Judy Caine [00:01:33] How far was it from Knin in Croatia to wherever it was you went to in Serbia? Was it a long distance? A day's journey?

Ljiljana Beric [00:01:44] Uh, a couple of days for me. Because we were sittin' in the cars and lorries and so we were moving. But I think it was two days that we travelled. I know some people that travelled for over a week, depending where they were traveling.

Judy Caine [00:02:13] Did you take everything, or did you just take what you could carry?

Ljiljana Beric [00:02:16] Literally, I took some clothes, and I just happened to take our family photos because that's what I like to do my free time I like to look at the albums and just packed them in my school bag, which I was very grateful for. Coz erm, when we like, later on, years later after that we were able to go back and see what, you know. But you couldn't obviously find anything.

Judy Caine [00:02:53] How old were you?

Ljiljana Beric [00:02:54] I was 14, it was August.

Judy Caine [00:03:05] Did you understand what was happening and why you had to leave?

Ljiljana Beric [00:03:11] I think nobody really understood that we were leaving forever. I think everybody's, everybody thought we are just going somewhere, you know, for a couple of days and then will come back. But actually, when we got and joined the journey, that was, when we got to the main road and could actually see how long the traffic was, and you realized that everybody was going, not just few people.

Judy Caine [00:03:40] How did that make you feel?

Ljiljana Beric [00:03:44] To be honest I think it was just like it was you just in shock and you don't know what's happening you don't even realize where you going or, and then when you actually get to Belgrade in Serbia I was like wow, you realize that, there you are.

Judy Caine [00:04:03] So where did you settle in Serbia?

Ljiljana Beric [00:04:09] We stopped at my Mum's cousin's house, he had a house near Belgrade. There was about 30 of us in the house but for them few days sleeping on the floors, anywhere. Then one of my Grandma's nephews, like distant relative, he was a businessman in Serbia. He offered to get us flats for, because it was my dad and his brother and their families and my Auntie with her two children and my Grandma, Great Grandma and Great Granddad. It was all of us together, so we got 3 flats in one of the houses that he rented for us for a couple of months. And each family stayed in one flat with one or two person with them you know, grandma, great grandma granddad. We stayed there from September to November/December.

Judy Caine [00:05:25] And that was all in 95.

Ljiljana Beric [00:05:28] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:05:30] My knowledge of Serbian history is not very good. It's a very complicated story. Was Serbia by then an independent state?

Ljiljana Beric [00:05:46] It was still in Yugoslavia. So, I think, at that time Serbia and Montenegro were still together. So, they were still classed as Yugoslavia. And I think it must be after 2000, 2002 when Montenegro went independent and then Serbia 2008.

Judy Caine [00:06:14] So it was very late wasn't it?

Ljiljana Beric [00:06:16] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:06:17] You were here by then weren't you?

Ljiljana Beric [00:06:20] Yeah. We came here in 1999. August as well, August is a good month for me (laughs).

Judy Caine [00:06:33] Easy to remember!

Ljiljana Beric [00:06:33] Yes, easy to remember, everything happens in August.

Judy Caine [00:06:33] So you stayed in Serbia for four years, no five years, no four years, ninety-five to ninety-nine.

Ljiljana Beric [00:06:41] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:06:42] So you were 18 when you came to the UK?

Ljiljana Beric [00:06:45] Yeah close 18. Yeah, 17.

Judy Caine [00:06:49] What made you come to the UK?

Ljiljana Beric [00:06:52] My Mum had an uncle in Corby and his family and um, at that point. Serbia was being, say bombarded, the Serbian president wouldn't step down from his position.

Judy Caine [00:07:14] The Serbian president wouldn't step down?

Ljiljana Beric [00:07:15] Yeah yeah. So that was a problem.

Judy Caine [00:07:19] So was there a civil war in Serbia?

Ljiljana Beric [00:07:27] I think, to be honest it started with Kosovo then and the people that lived in Kosovo and Albanians wanted to get their independence.

Judy Caine [00:07:32] In the south?

Ljiljana Beric [00:07:32] Yeah, but I think that happened after, after that, then there was a war.

Judy Caine [00:07:57] So, how did you feel coming to Corby?

Ljiljana Beric [00:08:01] It was an unknown. Mum and Dad made the decision obviously for me. We all coming. I know at the time I felt like I've just started to settle somewhere and after all that time. I mean the first year was horrendous, especially at school. Because the school there goes up to year 8 and then after year 8 you to do the exam then you can start your, whatever you want to become when you are an adult, you know. Whatever the job you'd like.

Judy Caine [00:08:30] Sort of vocational training.

Ljiljana Beric [00:08:31] Yeah. It goes for four years and then after you can go to uni. So, I think all the children were in the school they were together for eight years and then I joined so that was a bit hard. And then my year one of secondary school, that was much better because everybody was like new. So, it was easier to adapt. And then when they said we're moving I really wasn't keen. I just didn't know what, you know, I was like oh no I don't want to go, but obviously we came, and I'm glad we did. Especially for myself.

Judy Caine [00:09:14] Did you go back into education here, or did you get a job?

Ljiljana Beric [00:09:18] No, I went to, because I couldn't speak English when I came here, then I started the ESOL classes at Tresham in Kettering. And we did that for, me and my cousin, went for about three months until January and then in January we managed to get into the full time English for students with English as a second language. So, we did that until June July and then I think the following year in September we thought, what we gonna do this year, so we went back thinking we'd will do business and management or something like that. Say all places were taken. So, all right then we could do another year of English because obviously you know don't get, you don't learn much, especially when you've got, I think everybody speak in their own language, you know in their own accents shall I say. That was taken and one of the tutors for my English class he said well why would you become a nurse or nursery nurse, and I was shocked at first because I said he think that I can with my English work with children. He said well why, when you study, course you can you'll pick up the language. And that was what I always wanted to do, so I was just like wow, and I did I went to ... I did one year in college to get the certificate in childcare, because I wasn't sure how I'm going to do with English as second language and I did four days' work and one day study for my intermediate level three.

Judy Caine [00:11:16] Fantastic.

Ljiljana Beric [00:11:17] It was good, I'm so grateful for that. it was good.

Judy Caine [00:11:22] Do you still work with children now?

Ljiljana Beric [00:11:22] Yes, I still work with children, yeah, done it since 2002.

Judy Caine [00:11:29] And your English is now excellent.

Ljiljana Beric [00:11:34] Thank you.

Judy Caine [00:11:37] When you were born in Croatia, you then went to Serbia and you came over here do you feel Croatian, do you feel Serbian?

Ljiljana Beric [00:11:49] Laughs, Um, thing is I think wherever you go, like if I now went back to Croatia, I don't feel I belong there. If I go to Serbia, I don't feel like I belong there either. I think after being here for like first 10 years and when we went away and coming back I felt, yeah, we're coming back home.

Judy Caine [00:12:21] So England feels like home now, coz you've been here longest?

Ljiljana Beric [00:12:24] Yeah, that's the longest I've been anywhere really. Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:12:26] So, I know you're very much involved with the St. Elijah dance group which is the group teaching young people Serbian dance. Why did you get involved in that?



St. Elijah Dance Ensemble

Ljiljana Beric [00:12:42] Just by chance really. My son started, he was going, you know, when the group first started. He started attending the lessons and the lady that was really in charge and doing everything for them, Miltza. And I think did it for a couple of years, there was a group of people they were doing all the work really, voluntary and then on one occasion she asked would I join them to give some of my time to help out so I did four years ago. And then I was just doing really e-mails and being like the secretary and then on another annual meeting.

[00:13:42] I think she was ready for a break; she couldn't carry on doing anymore then I just became lead and that.

Judy Caine [00:13:51] So you're the chair of the group now?

Ljiljana Beric [00:13:51] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:13:51] Why do you think it's important to keep the Serbian traditions and culture alive for the next generation of Serbian children who are now living in England?

Judy Caine [00:14:10] Sorry, that was a very long question? You said you didn't really feel Serbian, you didn't really feel Croatian, so I'm wondering why - it's obviously important?

Ljiljana Beric [00:14:19] Yeah, it is, I think it is when you see them children dressed up in traditional uniforms and that it does remind you. Because I think every house used to have one of them because I think that was what our Grannies and Granddads used to wear on their wedding day or any big thing that happened and you know that was like the suit and the dress nowadays is what they would wear then. So, I think it was mainly like oh yeah, you know, and you see and then you see them dance it's nice, it's lovely.

Judy Caine [00:15:00] Are there any particular dances or songs that you remember from your childhood from ...? It's difficult isn't it, because that was all Croatian, the Serbian bit came later, when you were older?

Ljiljana Beric [00:15:13] Yeah. but I mean ...

Judy Caine [00:15:14] Is there much crossover.

Ljiljana Beric [00:15:16] Very similar I think. We had, while I've been in Croatia, they used to be uh, you say like festival things that would happen in like surrounding village not far from us, where my grandma comes from. So, I remember as a child go in there watching.

Judy Caine [00:15:46] What happened?

Ljiljana Beric [00:15:47] Watching people dance. Usually young children or teenagers. Some young adults as well. They used to dance.

Judy Caine [00:15:56] Did you dance yourself?

Ljiljana Beric [00:15:58] No I didn't.

Judy Caine [00:15:59] Sing?

Ljiljana Beric [00:16:01] No I didn't, I just wasn't involved in anything like that. I think that's probably why my boys are like go on do it you know. Because I never did it. Don't know why. They used to sing and dance. You'd get like men just singing as well. Like it would be mainly group of let's say like friends that would get together and just sing without really much music you know. And then, I'm stuck for the words, there used to be an older man who used to play - you play them in Scotland ...

Judy Caine [00:16:50] ... ah bagpipes?

Ljiljana Beric [00:16:50] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:16:50] In fact they are not called bagpipes are they? [Judy shows Ljiljana a picture of a Gajda - pronounced Guida].

Ljiljana Beric [00:16:50] Yeah, he used to play that.

Judy Caine [00:17:07] Is it pigskin with pipes?

Ljiljana Beric [00:17:09] I think so.

Judy Caine [00:17:12] I heard a bit earlier when I was doing some research it's really strange sound.

Ljiljana Beric [00:17:16] Yeah.



Judy Caine [00:17:18] Very different from Scottish bagpipes or Uilleann pipes, incredible. I'm sticking with my sheet of instruments just for the tape here. I mean these flutes. Do you know what they're called? Because I haven't got a clue what they're called. I mean I can research on the Internet, but somebody actually bought me these 4 ... (Judy shows Ljiljana 4 small wooden flutes)

Ljiljana Beric [00:17:40] One of them is Frula I think ...

Judy Caine [00:17:43] I'll check it out. And this, I'm not even sure if this is Serbian this thing called a Zoeller? It's like a double reed thing.

Ljiljana Beric [00:17:56] I'm not sure!

Judy Caine [00:17:56] Shall I look it up on the Internet.

Ljiljana Beric [00:17:57] Sorry I'm not the best.

Judy Caine [00:17:58] No no don't worry I'll look it up on the internet I just thought I'd bring it in case you knew but if you're not a musician why would you.

Ljiljana Beric [00:18:03] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:18:04] You wouldn't know.

Judy Caine [00:18:05] What's the most common instrument that is played in Serbia.

Ljiljana Beric [00:18:25] Um, what is that called now. I should have done some research myself. I suppose it's like people play ...

[00:18:42] ... bit of general chat about all the instruments merge and people play similar things in both Croatian and Serbia. Ljiljana didn't really know so Judy moved the interview on. ...

Ljiljana Beric [00:18:42] Best of all that happens in one of the towns in Guca is a music festival.

Judy Caine [00:19:13] Is that in Croatia or in Serbia?

Ljiljana Beric [00:19:13] That in in Serbia they do it.

Judy Caine [00:19:20] And what's the name of that town? Could you spell it for me?

Ljiljana Beric [00:19:23] Guca - G-U- C-A. They play trumpet. That's the trumpet festival there. It's very popular.

Internet research:



The **Guca Trumpet Festival** is an annual brass band festival held in the town of Guca near the city of Cakak - a three-hour bus ride from Belgrade.

600,000 visitors make their way to the town of 2,000 inhabitants every year, both from Serbia and abroad. Elimination heats are held earlier in the year and only a few dozen bands qualify to compete. Guca's official festival has three parts, Friday's opening concert, Saturday night's celebrations and Sunday's competition.

Miles Davis said of the Guca Festival: *"Forget Glastonbury, Reading, Burning Man and Coachella: the wildest music festival on earth is a cacophonous and crazy brass band festival that takes place every summer in the tiny Serbian town of Guca near in the western region of Dragacevo."*

Ljiljana Beric [00:19:42] But I suppose like, accordions, loads of people play accordions.

Judy Caine [00:19:46] Yes very popular - that's right across the whole region isn't it?

Ljiljana Beric [00:19:50] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:19:50] Interesting! This might sound a really silly question. I'm sorry if it does. I do apologize. Looking on a map. I hadn't realized, my geography is not brilliant, but Serbia is surrounded, completely landlocked by eight different countries. What is it, you've got Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Turkey, an awful lot of countries all around. Has the music and dance of Serbia taken on many influences from those different countries. Or is the Serbian folk dance and folk music unique to Serbia as a sort of nationalism.

Ljiljana Beric [00:20:38] That would be so hard to tell.

Judy Caine [00:20:40] OK.

Ljiljana Beric [00:20:44] I think now, because there is some Romanian people that live in our street. When they play their music is sound so similar to ours. Very similar as well. So, it's the words, the songs are different, because it's in their language but a lot of that sounds very similar.

Judy Caine [00:21:04] I thought it might, that's interesting. Shall we change the subject from music and dance. Unless you want to tell me anything else?

Ljiljana Beric [00:21:09] No, can do.

Judy Caine [00:21:14] Food, what can you tell me about Serbian food.

Ljiljana Beric [00:21:19] Uh, meat eaters?

Judy Caine [00:21:19] OK, fair enough! Is there like a national dish. Like in England you could say fish and chips, or roast beef and Yorkshire pudding are national dishes or thereabouts.

Ljiljana Beric [00:21:42] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:21:43] Yeah. It's a big country, well, big Island, there's lots of different dishes but is there something that is absolutely Serbian?

Ljiljana Beric [00:21:49] There's quite a few. I think there's quite a few. But is it just they make in Serbia, I don't know? But there's the one we do its Sarma.

Judy Caine [00:22:00] Sarma?

Ljiljana Beric [00:22:02] Yeah. And that is with minced meat, vegetable, in the pickled cabbage leaves.

Judy Caine [00:22:15] Okay. Do you actually wrap it in the cabbage leaves, like the Greeks do the vine thing?

Ljiljana Beric [00:22:22] Yeah. I know some people make it in the vine leaves as well, but its most common thing being done in pickled cabbage.

Judy Caine [00:22:35] Is that sauerkraut.

Ljiljana Beric [00:22:42] Yeah,

Judy Caine [00:22:43] Because normally sauerkraut or sliced up isn't it? But this is the whole leaf?

Ljiljana Beric [00:22:45] Yeah this is the whole and you put onions and herbs and carrots.

Judy Caine [00:22:46] Is the that an everyday thing or a special occasion?

Ljiljana Beric [00:23:01] Its usually a special occasion. I mean you can make it sometimes; I make it when there's no special occasion but it's not often maybe once or twice. But it's usually done for you know how we got Slavers; you know it's a Saint's Day in Serbian House?

Judy Caine [00:23:20] No?

Ljiljana Beric [00:23:22] Usually everybody makes that. We usually have a patron of the family ...

Judy Caine [00:23:30] Oh. A patron Saint, yes, sorry ...

Ljiljana Beric [00:23:33] Yeah. And then whoever celebrates, I don't know say St. George day they do it in one, their family and friends around and usually they have soup and Sarma, and then roast lamb. Pork, and all the salads.

Judy Caine [00:23:56] What sort of soup?

Ljiljana Beric [00:23:58] It's usually I think beef soup, beef, cooked in a noodle into in the mix that you get from there.

Judy Caine [00:24:12] Nice! And then through the salads, are they like coleslaws or ...what are they?

Ljiljana Beric [00:24:17] Um there's like we call a Russian salad. It's very similar, I've seen Polish people that make as well, it's similar.

Judy Caine [00:24:24] What's in a Russian Salad?

Ljiljana Beric [00:24:26] We put boiled eggs, urm boiled chicken breast, carrots, garden peas, pickles, some ham. Chop all that into little squares and then put mayonnaise in them.

Ljiljana Beric [00:24:58] It goes lovely with Roasts, goes, lovely with roast meat.

Judy Caine [00:25:03] Sounds lovely. What about deserts, my favorite topic.

Ljiljana Beric [00:25:06] Oh, deserts. We do the little finger cakes as well for them, occasions you know, for them. I don't know. We say, 'Russian Hats'.

Judy Caine [00:25:19] What sorry, 'Russian Hats'?

Ljiljana Beric [00:25:20] Yeah, if you translated it word for word. They are usually chocolatey sponge and then you cut it in the round like with a small glass or a small mold you cut around then you join them together with a cream. Get two of them rings or.

Judy Caine [00:25:45] Sounds horrible? (both laugh)

Ljiljana Beric [00:25:47] And then put it together, put the cream around and roll in the you know coconut and then chocolate on the top. Do them, all different really. All different like little cakes and then we see the big cakes and like you would have for birthdays.

Judy Caine [00:26:09] Yeah sure.

Ljiljana Beric [00:26:10] You know whenever people feel like making or they know oh my guests like this. You know I'm gonna make this. And it's not really a tradition, you have to have this or that, you know.

Judy Caine [00:26:20] Talking of traditions, I've just seen your fruit bowl there.

Ljiljana Beric [00:26:23] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:26:25] You do a whole array of alcoholic fruit drinks don't you.

Ljiljana Beric [00:26:29] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:26:31] I can't remember what they're called.

Ljiljana Beric [00:26:32] There is erm I think this like this say like what could this made from plums then another one is made that I know from grapes and seem to make from pears from peach all different fruits really.

Judy Caine [00:26:55] And is it a vodka or is it a fruit liqueur?

Ljiljana Beric [00:26:58] Well the fruit liqueur you could do with cranberries, like really sweet and fruity but the others are more strong and just spirit.

Judy Caine [00:27:13] How do you make them? Do you cover the fruit with Vodka and let it ferment?

Ljiljana Beric [00:27:16] So yeah, I usually I think with fruit ones, I think you put the fruit, sugar and the vodka. I think and leave it to dissolve in the sun or whatever, for however many days it takes. And then we separate it from, you know, just to get a liqueur. Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:27:36] Gosh. Sounds really, really nice. Yeah. I just need to look at my notes here to see if I've forgotten anything ...

Ljiljana Beric [00:27:43] But this is the kind of like cakes, the little ones you know they can just have.

Judy Caine [00:27:51] Wow, I'm being shown on a phone here a vast array of absolutely gorgeous little finger cakes.

Ljiljana Beric [00:28:00] That is like the Serbian cakes.

Judy Caine [00:28:03] I should research that and put into my thing. Can you message me that I'll get it on the internet and put it into your interview.



Ljiljana Beric [00:28:20] But then we have a Saint days as well, where we don't do meat if it's happening. If it's the Saint day just before Christmas or before Easter when it's usually the lent, then we supposed to do the fish and because ours, the one we celebrate St. Nicholas Day, my husband's family, ours is on 19th of December, and we don't to meet that day. We serve just fish, soup made of fish. And just really fish, potatoes, pasta dishes, that don't have any milk, eggs or meat in them. And then the cakes we make have to be egg and milk free as well.

Judy Caine [00:29:16] That sounds very healthy. How do you choose your family saint?

Ljiljana Beric [00:29:23] We don't, I think it's just been taken from generations, whoever did the first in the family you know ... and it's just carried down. When females get married, they take their husbands saint day and you know if they got a male in the family they just carry on.

Judy Caine [00:29:49] You were talking of saints, and I know Corby has the Serbian Orthodox Church on Rockingham Road.

Ljiljana Beric [00:29:55] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:29:57] Is Serbian Orthodox a main religion in Serbia as far as you know?

Ljiljana Beric [00:30:02] Hmm.

Judy Caine [00:30:03] Are people very religious?

Ljiljana Beric [00:30:06] Well I think so. I mean I don't know to be honest how many is different population. Because I think there is some, but I don't know.

Judy Caine [00:30:19] Is there a big population of Serbians in Corby?

Ljiljana Beric [00:30:23] It is but I really don't know how many people is. I remember at beginning of 2000 these people said there is about three thousand Serbs in Corby at that time but then I really don't know.

Judy Caine [00:30:44] That's quite a lot isn't it!

Ljiljana Beric [00:30:44] Yeah, and I know some people are left since and so it's really you know hard to tell now how many.

Judy Caine [00:30:54] Do the Serbians get together very much in Corby?

Ljiljana Beric [00:30:58] Used to lot more before than now.

Judy Caine [00:31:02] Why's that do you think and for what?

Ljiljana Beric [00:31:04] Uh to be honest, don't know. Very much people most when they get together is the Christmas Eve.

Judy Caine [00:31:14] Yeah, what happens on Christmas Eve?

Ljiljana Beric [00:31:16] Usually everybody goes to church where is erm, we would we burn like the wood outside.

Judy Caine [00:31:30] Like a bonfire?

Ljiljana Beric [00:31:30] Yeah. But it's erm ... gets up to fetch a little spray of dry leaves and ribbon that the church give out on Christmas eve.

Judy Caine [00:31:33] Oh, right, so you make this little leaf ...

Ljiljana Beric [00:31:47] ... that's what we get from the church on that night on the evening.

Judy Caine [00:31:52] I'm gonna take a photograph of this if I may. What does this signify, you tell me about it and then I'll put it next to a photograph. You've got straw, you've got Oak leaves, ribbon, why the 3 colours - oh, this is the flag isn't it, red, white and blue flag.

Ljiljana Beric [00:32:10] Yeah. I don't know if it brings like the health, or ... erm, it's just tradition I suppose, what happens on Christmas Eve and then the Easter for these people.

Internet research:



The **badnjak**, literally "the one who brings joy" in Serbian is a tree branch or young tree brought into the house and placed on the fire on the evening of Christmas Eve. The tree from which the badnjak is cut, preferably a young and straight Austrian Oak, is ceremonially felled early on the morning of Christmas Eve. The felling, preparation, bringing in, and laying on the fire, are surrounded by elaborate rituals, with many regional variations. The burning of the log is accompanied by prayers that the coming year brings food, happiness, love, luck, and riches. As most Serbs today live in towns and cities, the badnjak is often symbolically represented by a cluster of oak twigs with brown leaves attached, with which the home is decorated on Christmas Eve. (Top left)

Bottom left a Serbian Orthodox priest places the 'badnjak' on a fire during a Christmas Eve celebration at the Cathedral of St. Sava in Belgrade.

Judy Caine [00:32:38] OK. Talking about the colours of the flag, which is there (shows image). Now that's a flag I'm told since 2010 with the red, blue and white stripes and the, this in the middle.

Ljiljana Beric [00:32:52] Right.

Judy Caine [00:32:52] Do you have any idea what that signifies? It's fine if not I'll check it out, but I just thought I'd ask.

Ljiljana Beric [00:32:59] Shakes head.

Ljiljana Beric [00:33:01] No that's OK not a problem.

Internet research:



The Serbian flag features horizontal stripes of equal thickness in the traditional Pan-Slavic tricolors: red, blue, and white. The colours represent the revolutionary ideas of sovereignty. Red signifies the blood shed during the struggle for freedom, blue denotes the clear sky, and white signifies dazzling bright light. Serbia's coat of arms includes a principal shield and a smaller red shield, and is placed toward the hoist side of the flag. The main field of the coat of arms represents the Serbian state. It also displays a two-headed white eagle and fleur-de-lis next to each talon, which are considered historic dynastic symbols. The smaller red shield on the eagle

represents the nation of Serbia and is divided into four equal quarters by a white cross, with a Cyrillic 'C' in each corner. The four Cyrillic C's on the shield mean *Samo Sloga Serbina Spasava* ("Only Unity will Save the Serbs"). A royal crown is featured above the head of the eagle, which was inspired by the crown of the stars of Serbia.

Judy Caine [00:33:10] So, I'm nearly at the end of the things I was going to ask is anything you haven't told me, but you want to tell me about?

Ljiljana Beric [00:33:19] I can't really think of anything.

Judy Caine [00:33:21] We talked a bit about dance, we've talked a bit about music, food. What about costumes, national costumes? I know from looking again at my map that there are these 5 regions of Serbia.

Ljiljana Beric [00:33:38] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:33:38] Do they all have their own particular national costume?

Ljiljana Beric [00:33:41] Probably they have yeah.

Judy Caine [00:33:44] Where are you from, which area did you live in?

Ljiljana Beric [00:33:50] I suppose not far from Belgrade, where I lived for three years. Yeah. Don't know.

Judy Caine [00:34:24] Don't worry.

Ljiljana Beric [00:34:26] You've probably seen what we have a dance group, but I really don't know what each part has as theirs.

Judy Caine [00:34:36] So at dance group, what are the costumes you wear there?

Ljiljana Beric [00:34:40] Depending on what dance they doing and then they have to have certain costumes.

Judy Caine [00:34:44] So I guess Max would be the man to tell me, which costumes come from where?

Ljiljana Beric [00:34:44] Yeah, he would know definitely.

[00:34:56] Cos I know the part where Surmadija - you know that that orangey color on your map.

Judy Caine [00:35:02] Oh yes. Judy points to map.

Ljiljana Beric [00:35:03] Yeah. No, the other one, the yellow one, the bigger part, they've danced, their dance and there's a few obviously outfits that boys were wearing and the girls.

Judy Caine [00:35:17] One thing I did notice, the night I came to see the dance. you wear a lot of belts and hold the belts instead of holding hands.

Ljiljana Beric [00:35:33] I suppose that is the dance that is doing. Because on some of them, depending what obviously they dancing, but I think if there's a lot of spinning involved, they hold onto belts because it's easier to hold tight I think so nobody lets go and falls down.



Judy Caine [00:35:54] It was very fast. I was exhausted just watching.

Ljiljana Beric [00:35:57] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:35:59] Well, look Ljiljana, thank you so much for talking to me.

Ljiljana Beric [00:36:01] Thank you.

Judy Caine [00:36:02] I'm going to turn this off.