

Danijela Bastajic b. 25/9/76

Transcript of interview with Judy Caine – 23rd July 2019

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

Judy Caine [00:00:01] OK. This is Judy Caine and I can't hear a thing. OK this is Judy Caine. It is Tuesday the 23rd of July 2019 and I'm here with Danijela who is going to tell me a little bit about herself where she's from and why she settled in Corby.

To start Daniela just like set the level on this tape machine for you. Could you just give me your name and your date of birth?

Danijela Bastajic [00:00:31] Danijela Bastajic and my date of birth is 25th September 1976.



Danijela talks about when she came but technical issues on tape. Judy after a couple of minutes had to stop the tape, sort problem and continued with interview. Went back to Danijela's story of how and when she came over at approx. 13 minutes into the re-started interview.

Danijela Interview take 2

Danijela Bastajic [00:00:00] Who are your grannies, if you don't know where is your roots, if you don't know where your Christian, who, the Christian you are, if you don't know any of this, so who you are then? Know, what I mean? That is, I don't know, how I teach my kids. You know, if you give them a strong basic for growing, if you teach them who they are, and what they are, and what they need to do. I think that that is how I teach my kids. That is how my parents teach me and I learn. You know I'm not, I'm not the parent, and maybe that is wrong, but I'm really not the parent who says oh OK, never mind. Next time you need to ... no, I don't do that. We need to sit, we need to talk about it. We need to say, okay let's go to see what the problem is, why this happened, why do this, know what I mean? In the middle of everything, what we're doing it is a, trust, believe because we are Christian you know. So that is that is actually the, the start for everything.

Judy Caine [00:01:16] Is religion a big issue in Serbia?

Danijela Bastajic [00:01:19] It is. It is.

Judy Caine [00:01:22] Is it mainly a Christian country? Is it Catholic? Is it Muslim? What are the main religions?

Danijela Bastajic [00:01:29] Serbia is an orthodox country, but we have a Catholic as well, we have a Muslim, we have a, I don't know, Protestant you know before. But the main one is the Orthodox, and then after the Orthodox is a Catholic.

Judy Caine [00:01:49] There was, obviously in the nineties, you were living in Serbia through the Troubles. Is that something you want to talk about. Can talk about or do you just not want to go there?

Danijela Bastajic [00:02:01] You can ask me you know, and I can you know if I'm okay to tell you I will. You know, can depend on the question. [laughs]

Judy Caine [00:02:10] I guess I'm interested in how it affected ordinary people like yourselves. How the war affected ordinary people and, it's such a complex region. I don't really understand it to be

honest. Can you give me any sort of insight as to what happened, why it happened and how it impacted you?

Danijela Bastajic [00:02:41] I can tell you, you know generally. Generally, what I know that is obviously something what I don't like to talk about, because I think I still don't know anything. know what I mean? Unfortunately, I'm really, really, really sorry that all the young people who died. And, uh, who lost you know somebody who lost, just lost somebody, you know the Mum, Dad, children. It doesn't matter who you know, I'm really sorry about that but still don't know, you know, the right truth. Generally, what happened, the Croatia people, who live in Croatia, they want to move out all Serbs to Serbia, and from Serbia all Croatian people they want to move to Croatia. How this is ethnical cleaning. Something what happen at the moment in Kosovo. So that is a similar. In Serbia, it was doing what I says it was the same big, big war was in Croatia then in Serbia you know. Actually, Serbia didn't go any war, just in Croatia. So that is actually where everything start, they just want to move out all Serbs from Croatia. Instead of that I got my uncle who lived in Croatia you know, and he need to be moved with his family so.

Judy Caine [00:04:23] Did you get separated from any of your family or were you able to stay together?

Danijela Bastajic [00:04:28] I don't have too much family in Croatia. Only my uncle lived here and that's it. Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:04:37] Thank you.

Danijela Bastajic [00:04:38] I don't have, my whole family's in Serbia. They live there.

Judy Caine [00:04:42] Do you get back very often to Serbia?

Danijela Bastajic [00:04:50] I'm going once in a year you know. You know when the big school holiday but this year I don't go because I will go in October. But we usually go every August, we spend two weeks with my Mum and Dad. But last year they were, they came here in December and they stay until March. So nearly three months we spent together. So, you know I think it's easy for them to come here. But anyway, I like to go there. You know, I like to sit in my garden you know in my house and everything. But you know now it's for nearly 15 years, how I live here in the UK. My kids grow up you know here and that is what I says my friends from work you know. Maybe I'm strange for somebody but that is how I'm looking on my life. OK I decide married and came here. That's it. Lots of them ask me did you like England did you like to live with them. I says, you know what, that's my new life, so that is what chose. I need to make them to be ok for myself and to be you know just something how I like to live. So that's it. You know I really don't think about the about the weather, about the ... that is what it is, you know. You just live here so you need to accept everything.

Judy Caine [00:06:23] You just get on with it!

Danijela Bastajic [00:06:25] Exactly. Especially when my kids came, you know. I like to say the, my home is there where my kids is so, that is absolutely the truth, you know. Before my kids grow up, they are bigger now, so we celebrate everything together of course. And you know just do all like the, you know, Orthodox people doing. You know our base and everything. So, earlier, I says when the Christmas came, when the Easter came I feel sorry and I, I want to be in Serbia, by now I don't feel any more that nostalgia. Or, you know nostalgic. I don't know.

Judy Caine [00:07:14] So does England feel like your home now?

Danijela Bastajic [00:07:17] Yeah exactly. Yeah. Because you know, the reason I came here, I said, is I'm married so I need, I need to start build my family and everything. So, that was the main reason why I came here. I didn't came here for work, for money. Because the way how we live you know in my home we just live, if I can say like normal people you know. When we get the payday we know where the money will go. That's it, we need this, we need this. We don't have you know somebody; I know lots of people who are doing the you know. Oh no, no, no, no, my salary or everything go on the side for the savers. So how you live then? And holiday. They have holiday they go back to Serbia stay for two, three weeks. That that is a holiday! For God's sake. You didn't be on seaside, you did be on any swimming pool, so what kind of holiday you have, you know? But, okay that's your way so, you know, that is how you live, this is how I live. So!

Judy Caine [00:08:20] You mentioned earlier you had a bit of a sore throat. You've been singing and dancing what was all that about?

Danijela Bastajic [00:08:24] Yes. That was in Serbian hall actually next to the Serbian church. So, it was a wedding that it is a Serbian guy wedding to the Spanish girl. So, they get married in Serbian church and it was in Serbia hall. Big, big, big wedding so it was really nice. You know.

Judy Caine [00:08:53] Yes, your church is beautiful.

Danijela Bastajic [00:08:53] Oh, thank you. Yeah it is nice. It is lovely, that is one of the, one of the best church, you know, after that one in Birmingham that they have. They call that church Lazarica [Serbian Orthodox Church of The Holy Prince Lazar - known locally as Lazarica]. They that is how they call that church in Birmingham Lazarica.

Judy Caine [00:09:15] In Birmingham?

Danijela Bastajic [00:09:17] Yes, you know?

Judy Caine [00:09:21] No, I haven't been to the Birmingham one no. But I did an event in the Serbian Hall and Milena Petrovich, who did the booking, asked if I would like to see the church. I said I'd love to see the church, so she took me into the church, and it was amazing. It's beautiful.

Internet research:



The Church of the Holy Prince Lazar, also known as Lazarica Church, is a Serbian Orthodox church located at Cob Lane in Bournville, Birmingham, England, and was built for political refugees from Yugoslavia after WWII, with the support of the exiled Prince Tomislav of Yugoslavia.



Serbian Orthodox Church, Rockingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire:



Exterior



Interior (no chairs/pews)



A Christmas Celebration

Danijela Bastajic [00:09:43] Yeah, yeah. It's so beautiful.

Judy Caine [00:09:45] Yeah. Yeah. I was struck. There were no chairs, there were no pews?

Danijela Bastajic [00:09:52] That is a change you know. That is a difference between Catholic Church and Serbian actually, an Orthodox church, it is some just couple chairs on the sides.

Judy Caine [00:10:03] For older people who need to sit down?

Danijela Bastajic [00:10:04] Yes, Yeah. But it's not any chairs there because all the time need to be standing on your legs. That is the thing like if I would try to compare. Every Orthodox family, they have a blessing day or Slava Day in their families.

Judy Caine [00:10:37] Is that like a naming or birthday or saint's day?

Danijela Bastajic [00:10:43] Saint's day for that family. Every family have a different one. Some of them celebrate the same. For example. In my home we celebrate the Saint's day, 14th of January. That is Saint Big Vasil that is called, that is a name. So, when you take the religion calendar you know when you take them. Yes. I don't know did you go chance to see but when you take them orthodox one or Catholic one you know, it doesn't matter, you know, so, you can see the dates and every date has a different name. Tap, tap, tap, tap, tap, that is the sons, sons names. So, every family have a different month different name different you know depend, that is what I says when we start. For myself it's really important for my kids to know who they are and where they're coming from. Maybe in the future they've been married. You know. I don't know who that is their choice, but that lady or man, of course they're going to have something of how they grew up. Know what I mean, they got something from their family bring it to you. You need to bring something from yours. So, you'd find yourself you know together. So, that is the traditional one. Slava day. Back, back, back, back, back, you know back in the days. They celebrate the same day. So, the Father and sons they just continue but only father and sons no daughters.

Judy Caine [00:12:32] Really.

Danijela Bastajic [00:12:32] No. Because if daughter, if she get married to Serbian guy, she gonna carry on celebrate his Slava, but she's still allowed to mention her Slava in that house. But main celebration will be on her husband's saint day.

Judy Caine [00:12:58] Can you spell the name of your same day because I know I haven't got that.

Danijela Bastajic [00:13:02] Big S-I-L-I-J-A Silija

Judy Caine [00:13:22] OK thank you, and that's your husband's saint day that you now adopt, and your sons adopt - you said you've got two sons and a daughter here.

Danijela Bastajic [00:13:33] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:13:33] OK. I actually had a problem with this flipping tape machine at the beginning. Can you just tell me very briefly again when you came you came in 2005? Tell me how you met your husband and just when you came. Because I had a lot of funny noised on my tape machine.

Danijela Bastajic [00:13:50] Yeah. I met my husband, yeah, in August 2005 on the Internet. Right. Start chatting.

Judy Caine [00:13:56] Yeah.

Danijela Bastajic [00:14:00] And then he came to Serbia in September's same year 2005, came to Serbia. To see alive, you know he's really existed (laughs). And then in November, 27 November we been engaged, in church getting you know, blessed and you know everything. 29 - two days later, jump in the plane, and that's it. So, from 29 of November 2005 start to live here.

Judy Caine [00:14:49] Fantastic. Thank you. When your children go back to Serbia you said earlier in the interview that they teach you English you teach them Serbian. Are they able to communicate quite well with the family out there?

Danijela Bastajic [00:15:02] Yes, they speak Serbian properly you know with them. Of course, they're using English words. OK, OK I will try to, for example. When my Mum ask Katarina, Katie can you tell me the recipe for the cake. Okay. Katarina explained like this "dobro baba oozmesh biscuits. Put on the base eyonder stavish kareem, same like for the Victoria sponge." [phonetically transcribed]. So, did you, know you can catch me. Got it. So, she speak Serbian but lots of lots of words that she just put them in English and then I says, Katie grandma don't know English, so you need to speak all in Serbian. And then she says okay Grandma you need to do this this and this. Mum how I need to say in Serbian this one? And then you put - Mum how I need to - all the time she asked me something. (both laugh).

[00:16:06] But when we go there and see the family and friends, you know and neighbours and everybody, lots of people come in and ask me they speak Serbian really well, you know, I'm surprised. They didn't expect, you know. I says yeah, of course, because we speak Serbian but of course we're using the English word as well you know not just the Serbian.

Judy Caine [00:16:29] Does your husband speak Serbian too.

Danijela Bastajic [00:16:31] Yeah, yeah.

Judy Caine [00:16:31] Ah, that's handy isn't it.

Danijela Bastajic [00:16:34] But to be honest I speak more Serbian with my children than my husband. I think it's much easier for him not to speak on English than on Serbian.

Judy Caine [00:16:48] Is he English or Serbian?

Danijela Bastajic [00:16:48] No, he is Serbian. Yeah, he is. But you know it is. You know, I don't know maybe he live here already 20 years and then I still, when I speak on English, I still need to translate, not everything, not everything but he don't do the long, long time ago. He stopped. I ask him to just do it he say no.

Judy Caine [00:17:14] No. I get that. One part of my family are French, and when I speak French, because I don't do it very often now, I think in English and have to sort of translate back to French.

Danijela Bastajic [00:17:28] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:17:28] So, I do understand where you are coming from.

[00:17:30] Can I just go back to the dance and the songs for a second. Are there any dances and songs or any traditional cultural things you pass on to your children specifically? I don't know lullabies, celebratory songs or dances for Christmas, Easter?

Danijela Bastajic [00:17:48] We don't have you know, we have folklore, that is the traditional you know the dance, folklore, with all the traditional dance and dressing and everything. And it is the, you know, the Avala one in Corby.

Judy Caine [00:18:07] Who are they? Tell me about Avala.

Danijela Bastajic [00:18:10] I can't tell you too much. Only what I know that is that there is the traditional Serbian dance group.

Judy Caine [00:18:21] Where are they based.

Danijela Bastajic [00:18:26] They based in the hall, Serbian hall, every Thursday they have classes every Thursday on er 7, half 7

Judy Caine [00:18:41] Do you know who runs that, could I contact them?

Danijela Bastajic [00:18:47] When I see the lady, I know that she is you know, but I can send you the phone number you know the lady who is who doing the folklore you know.

Judy Caine [00:18:59] Could you, I would love to talk to her.

Danijela Bastajic [00:19:01] Yeah, of course I can but I don't have her. I got her on Facebook, and I don't have her for you now.

Judy Caine [00:19:07] OK. Well we've done this. If you give me her name on Facebook. Yeah. I'll message - can I say that I got her name from you. Is that okay?

Danijela Bastajic [00:19:16] You can say everything yeah, of course.

Judy Caine [00:19:20] So what. What sort of dances are traditional?

Danijela Bastajic [00:19:22] Oh, they're lovely. They're really nice. I really like that folklore. That is how we call them folklore. But my kids don't wanna go. Not one of them.

Judy Caine [00:19:37] I just want to turn this off for a moment because I want to ask you a sensitive question.

[00:19:40] TAPE PAUSED.

Judy Caine [00:19:43] OK. Thank you. One final question.

Danijela Bastajic [00:19:47] Final!

Judy Caine [00:19:47] Yes.

Danijela Bastajic [00:19:47] OK.

Judy Caine [00:19:47] Well maybe 2 or 3. Can I ask you to think about your childhood in Serbia. Are there any songs or dances that really stick out that you teach or sang to your children when they were little?

Danijela Bastajic [00:20:12] That is the only songs. What I really want for them to know that is that 2 traditional songs for the Christmas and for the Easter time. Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:20:27] What are they?

Danijela Bastajic [00:20:28] I really want to know that because every time when they hear that song, they know It's Christmas and they know what they need to sing. You know they, they know why we

celebrate the Christmas, why we celebrate Easter and the rest of all the all another songs, they're just the folk music in Serbia, what we listen. So that's it. That is that.

Judy Caine [00:20:50] So are you going to sing this song to me so I can hear it?

Danijela Bastajic [00:20:54] Urm ...

Judy Caine [00:20:55] Please - the Christmas song that everybody knows. How does it go?

Danijela Bastajic [00:21:02] For the Easter one we are singing the song like ... I needed time to prepare (laughs)

Judy Caine [00:21:16] Take your time, it's fine.

Danijela Bastajic [00:21:16] For Easter one I teach them to, you know, Katie most of them she's singing the.

[00:21:27] Sings song ... 'Christos Voskrese'

English translation of 'Christos Voskrese'

The words are from a poem by St. Nikolai Velimirovich who served for a time as the Rector of St. Tikhon's Seminary – truly one of the great Serbian saints of the modern era.

People rejoice, nations hear:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!
Stars dance, mountains sing:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!

Forests murmur, winds hum:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!
Seas bow*, animals roar:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!

Bees swarm, and the birds sing:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!
Angels stand, triple the song:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!

Sky humble yourself, and elevate the earth:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!
Bells chime, and tell to all:
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!

Glory to You God, everything is possible to You,
Christ is risen, and brings the joy!

Danijela Bastajic [00:21:41] And then, you know, just lots of lots of ... you know, that's means Christ is risen, bring the happiness. That is that is what the song says. OK.

And then erm, for the Christmas, that is a song, that's actually the folk song, that's not the, the church song. Yeah. It says, the song from - it says like uh - I wanna start again on Serbian you know, it's going like this ...

[00:22:25] Sings song ...'Bozic Je'.

English translation of 'Bozic Je'

I remember watching
Grandma takes me to church
Beside me, people kiss and shout Christ is born.

It's Christmas, Christmas is bursting prangies
Grandma is also saving garlic and I'm not there

Old father's wearing a badge
Who I see that picture now
White frizz in the hair of the bellboy on the bell tower

It's Christmas, Christmas is bursting prangies
Grandma is also saving garlic and I'm not there

My little fingers tremble
Grandma takes me to church
Let your son be baptized and say Christ is born

It's Christmas, Christmas is bursting prangies
Grandma is also saving garlic and I'm not there

Danijela Bastajic [00:22:39] That's mean 'Christmas is, Christmas is, you can hear the fire, you know like, the, how called - like on the boating lake ...

Judy Caine [00:22:46] Oh the bonfire?

Danijela Bastajic [00:22:46] Yes, the bonfire, yeah, you can hear that, and Mum prepares censica that's a bread what we make for Christmas, censica.

Judy Caine [00:23:04] Tell me about the food in Serbia.

Danijela Bastajic [00:23:07] Oh, I can tell you, oh, I don't know!

Judy Caine [00:23:10] What is chesnitza [how it sounds - correct spelling above]? Is it a particular ...

Danijela Bastajic [00:23:12] Censica, that is the name, that's just the bread. So, the bread for the Christmas we made them. That is the censica yeah. Made them in a circle. You can put on top different shapes like you can make the small pigeon, small bread, just the, how says, the um delivery for the cakes. You know what I mean. Not just being the plain. Just put something some decoration, something like that. And then before lunch. So, in the morning on a Christmas Day we're going to church. Around 7, 8 o'clock we go there when we've got the blessing and everything coming back home. Take something light for the breakfast. Yeah. And then when the uh lunch time is so we just take that censica, turn around and pray Our Father.

Judy Caine [00:24:20] Oh, the Lord's Prayer - 'Our Father ...'.

Danijela Bastajic [00:24:21] Yeah, main prayer, yeah. So, just turn them around and say that when we finish, we says okay, do that now, and tap and broke the censica and somebody need to find a little coin in.

Judy Caine [00:24:39] Gosh, that's very similar to what Christmas pudding tradition.

Danijela Bastajic [00:24:42] Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:24:44] We have a little coin inside the Christmas pudding ...

Internet research:



Serbian *ćesnica*, or Christmas bread, has a hint of sweetness. Elaborate versions are topped with ornamental decorations and religious symbols made from a special sculpting dough that contains no yeast and will retain the shape it's formed in when baked. The common tie is the silver coin baked inside. It is believed whoever finds it will have good luck in the coming year.

The word *ćesnica* is derived from the Serbian word *čest*, meaning "to share." And that is how the bread is eaten—at a communal table where it is rotated three times counterclockwise before each person tears off a piece.

Danijela Bastajic [00:24:47] Yeah, you know, so actually Censica the bread is the same like Christmas pudding in England. You see everyone, everyone got something, what is coming from church, came from that side. Know what I mean. So, you know, when you look around, I mean you just think you wonder where everything is start from God.

Judy Caine [00:25:15] There's more common strands within mankind, than I don't know. I think we have more in common than we tend to believe. Everyone tends to focus on the differences between different races and different religions. But there's an awful lot of commonality, very similar, one race, mankind

Danijela Bastajic [00:25:29] Yeah, exactly, exactly. Everything is all the difference, difference where we got now, that's a difference, that is where we made. That is where we made nobody else because that, that is how I teach my kids, but they are still small to understand what I want to tell them. We are here in this world. Just to make the, what he want. Because he already know for everybody of us here what we're going to do. And how our life will be look like.

Judy Caine [00:26:10] So you're saying God knows our destiny?

Danijela Bastajic [00:26:10] Everything.

Judy Caine [00:26:12] And we just have to follow that through.

Danijela Bastajic [00:26:14] Exactly. So that is why he says don't be angry, don't argue with the people, be nice, be helpful because you don't need to worry it for tomorrow. God already know what's going to happen tomorrow for myself.

Judy Caine [00:26:32] So just does the Orthodox Church have the same Bible as the Christian church.

Danijela Bastajic [00:26:37] Yes.

Judy Caine [00:26:37] And so you have the Ten Commandments.

Danijela Bastajic [00:26:40] They got the same. It is a difference just that, they have a difference. But the, books, Mass, everything is the same. When you take the, when you go to Catholic Church and you take the book to follow the mass in the Catholic Church it is absolutely the same in the Orthodox.

Judy Caine [00:27:07] Wow, I didn't know that.

Danijela Bastajic [00:27:09] Completely the same. Only the differences when you say that I believe in the Catholic Church it is I believe in the Apostle Orthodox Church.

Judy Caine [00:27:25] That's absolutely fascinating. I don't, I've never been to an Orthodox church service, so I don't know what happens. I've been into lots of other different religions, but the Orthodox Church is not one. That's not true. I did go to an Orthodox church in Greece once, which was something else.

Danijela Bastajic [00:27:46] Yeah. Yeah. It is. Because you know the, on the Greek side ... brief chat about Greek Saints and fact that it is a very segregated religion not allowing women in certain places, or to do certain things etc.

Judy Caine [00:28:09] Anyway. Anything else you'd like to tell me?

Danijela Bastajic [00:28:16] I don't know, you ask me.

Judy Caine [00:28:18] What about costumes are the many regions in Serbia that have different national costumes or is there a national dress? Is it a regional thing?

Danijela Bastajic [00:28:29] It is a, it is a dress. The traditional dress. You mean the dancing.

Judy Caine [00:28:35] Yes, the folklore costume. Yes.

Danijela Bastajic [00:28:36] Depends what, what part. Because all the games, dance, not the games, dance. they're came from different sides in Serbia. So, one of them came from central Serbia, it is one dress. One of them came from the north of Serbia, it is a different one. One of them coming from south of Serbia, so they gotta different places in Serbia. So, they all have the traditional dance.

Judy Caine [00:29:10] So perhaps if I looked on the internet, I could get an example of the different costume in the different regions?

Danijela Bastajic [00:29:19] Yeah, or maybe the lady, you know when I give you the contact, maybe she's she can help.

Judy Caine [00:29:23] Yeah, yeah, that would be lovely.

[00:29:23] Is there a national dish in Serbia, or again is it regional. In England we might have fish and chips or roast beef and Yorkshire pudding?

Danijela Bastajic [00:29:32] In Serbia you have Sama, Tavce, Cvarci - you know everything, I will tell you what is that.

Judy Caine [00:29:51] Okay.

Danijela Bastajic [00:29:52] And you will know exactly what is this.

[00:29:55] Sarma, I think you try them. Sarma is pickled cabbage filled, you know, with a mix of rice, onion and minced meat. Fry them in a little oil and then put them in the leaf of the pickled cabbage, roll them and cook. That is Sarma.

Judy Caine [00:30:18] Hmm. nice.

Danijela Bastajic [00:30:18] Gravce no Tavce - that is beans cooked in oven, baked in oven long, long time and then in the top. in a top of them put the sausage.

Judy Caine [00:30:42] Nice.

Danijela Bastajic [00:30:43] So that is Gravce no Tavce. Cvarci, that is the poor crackling. But, here, in England you make them from skin.

Judy Caine [00:30:57] Yes, from the rind.

Danijela Bastajic [00:31:00] And we made them from the fat we take the poor fat, cut them in small pieces and then make the crackers or Tavce, we call them Tavce.

Judy Caine [00:31:12] OK. I'm hungry now.

Danijela Bastajic [00:31:17] I know you are.

Judy Caine [00:31:19] What about desserts. My fave. Because you're clearly a very good cake-maker.

Danijela Bastajic [00:31:26] You know what, let's go. I think the cakes is not the, you know, the main one. The main one is something like Strudla, or Ustipci you know. So, what is that. Ustipci that's something like small dumplings you know.

Judy Caine [00:31:47] Okay. Sweet dumpling.

Danijela Bastajic [00:31:50] And then on the on the end you just put the sugar on the top. Strudla that is like a Swiss roll, but the pastry is like bread. You know like bread, and then roll them in the big sheet you know of the poppy seeds ...

Judy Caine [00:32:10] I'm coming to your house, what time's lunch (both laugh).

Danijela Bastajic [00:32:10] ... and then put on the top you know the poppy seeds or walnuts, depends. Just roll them and then put down on a you know, roll them and put them in a pan, a baking pan to raise. And then bake them.

Internet research:



Ustipci



Strudla sa Makom / sa Pekmezom (with poppy seeds / walnut)

Judy Caine [00:32:41] Strudla sounds a bit like Strudel which is rolled pastry with apple and ...

Danijela Bastajic [00:32:53] Yes. Yes, you know, strudel I bought them in Aldi or Lidle, strudel with the apples or with the summer berries or whatever they got. So, I take them, and we eat them with the custard on the top. But that pastry, that is puff pastry.

Judy Caine [00:33:13] And you do it with bread?

Danijela Bastajic [00:33:14] We're doing them, we knead them.

Judy Caine [00:33:16] You do it with dough?

Danijela Bastajic [00:33:16] We do it with dough, exactly so that is different. Yeah.

Judy Caine [00:33:21] Drinks is there a ...

Danijela Bastajic [00:33:24] Rakia.

Judy Caine [00:33:24] What's Rakia? Is it a wine?

Danijela Bastajic [00:33:24] No, no, no, no, that's something like whiskey on that way. And now when you go in the summertime, everything is Serbia, beer. Everywhere. My dad. He don't like it from the fridge. He just, he put in the fridge and then take out a half hour before he going to drink. But, when my dad is really, really, really thirsty he says I would like to drink something. And as well I'm thirsty. So that's me. Bring me one Rakia, shot and one beer.

Judy Caine [00:34:20] A chaser as we call it in England - shot then beer.

Danijela Bastajic [00:34:25] Yeah. Yeah.

Internet research:



Quince Rakija from Serbia in a Traditional flask

Rakia or rakija is the collective term for fruit brandy popular in the Balkans. The alcohol content of rakija is normally 40% ABV, but home-produced rakija can be stronger.

Rakija is one of the most popular alcoholic drinks in Serbia - it is regarded as the national drink of Serbia. In Serbia there are 10,000 private producers of rakija. 2,000 are on the official register and only about a hundred cellars produce high-quality brandy.

Judy Caine [00:34:29] OK, fantastic. I could chat all day, but we hadn't better because we both got things to do. It's been absolutely lovely to talk to you.

Danijela Bastajic [00:34:35] Thank you so much. And it was my pleasure really to be in it. If you need anything more you know, you just like, like I told you earlier, you know, you can send me mail or something I can read, write about you, about that you know just send you link so that's it yeah.

Judy Caine [00:34:50] Brilliant. I should turn this machine off and you can help me with these spellings because I'm sure I've got every single one of them completely wrong.

Thank you.