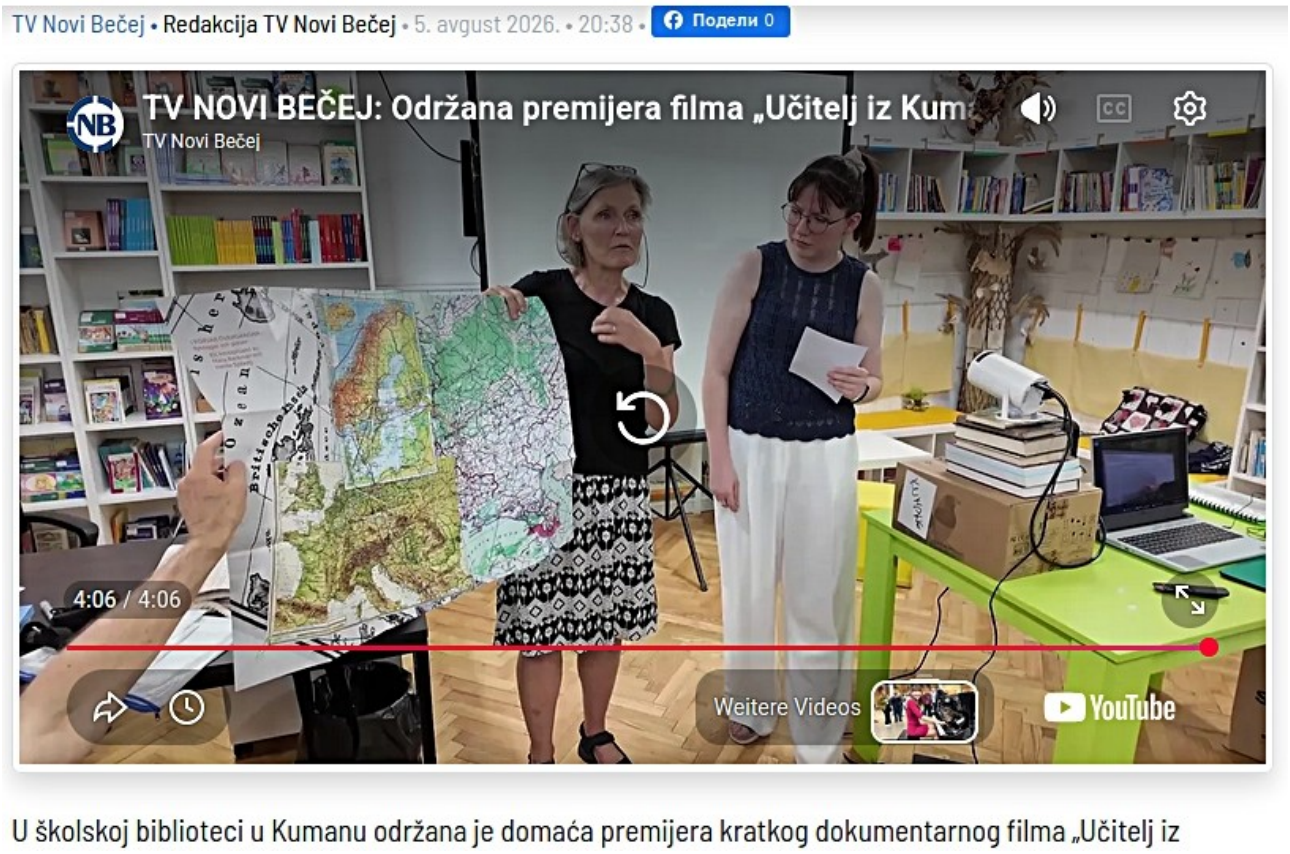
Premiere of the Film **The Teacher from Kumane** Held [05-08-2026; film incl.interv.]

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Filmtext Translation

The domestic premiere of the short documentary film "The Teacher from Kumane – Tracing Yugoslav Internees to the Beisfjord Camp", by author Marina Veselinović from Novi Bečej, took place in the school library in Kumane. According to her, the project stems from a desire to preserve family history while also contributing to the culture of remembrance for those who suffered during World War II. The screening was enriched by an introductory presentation on historical events during World War II, and the film represents a continuation of the project "Code Viking 1942–2021", says the young author, who is a lawyer by profession:

"The project started five years ago, and each group, or rather each member of the group, was supposed to record a short video that would later become part of a documentary film. We were supposed to film in Belgrade, then in Berlin, and in Norway; however, about 90 kilometers from Berlin, we had an accident, the bus overturned, and we never reached Berlin. We made that documentary film using the material we had, and that's how it ended at the time. Since it was the five-year mark recently, Christian Tietz from the Weisswerk [Vajswerk] organization called me to meet and asked if I wanted to make a presentation in front of an audience in Berlin, and I decided to do it in the form of a film. The premiere went very well there; people were surprisingly curious, asking questions, so they were very interested. This is a personal story. Milan Stančić Uča was my great-grandfather's brother.

People in Kumane mostly know the story in broad strokes, but through research, I came to some new data. I am in contact with the Weisswerk organization, and they are in further contact with a historian from Narvik who provided some new data and led me to research further. While I was preparing for an exam, I was looking for a book to read and found 'The Beisfjord Tragedy' in my home, a book that details this entire tragedy, not just Uča's, but other people's as well. Otherwise, I graduated in law and currently work as a secretary at the 'Dositej Obradović' Elementary School in Bočar. I also completed a graphic design course and I do that as a hobby, so I enjoy doing it. I made the film with the help of artificial intelligence. That was the easiest way for me to tell this story."

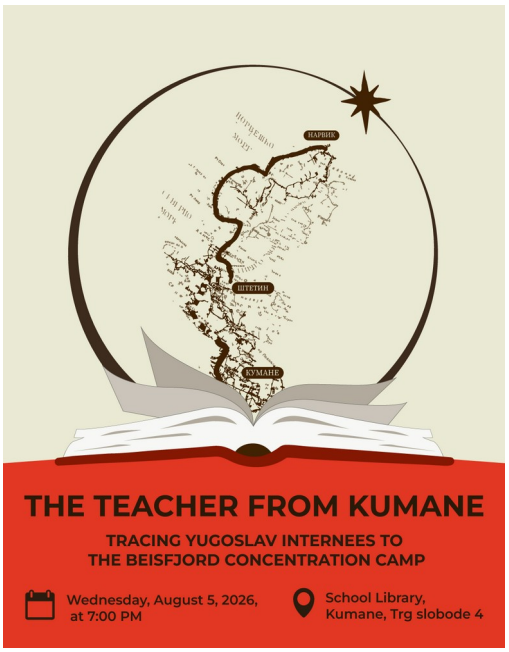
Guests of the event in Kumane were Christian Tietz and Hanna Sjöberg from the Weisswerk organization in Germany, which deals with researching history, preserving the memory of World War II victims, and international exchange and documentary projects.

"Stories like this are of great importance, and the Weisswerk organization focuses precisely on research and then finding ways to present those findings to people. These were two different projects; the first one was perhaps more organized, while the second one was freer in form but of an international character. Also, we had the coronavirus pandemic in the meantime, so we couldn't meet, meaning there were many difficulties and we had to pause for a while, but we managed to continue," Hanna Sjöberg pointed out on this occasion.

"We want to present history from a different angle, because there is no single voice that can tell us everything. That is why we have multiple sides and multiple voices, we have research that we present to people. We work with historians, but also with professional actors. This time we had the opportunity to see a project we did with historians and young people, but we also collaborate with professional actors. Here, we are dealing simultaneously with local history, war history, and European history, and ultimately, world history, because after all, it was a world war," concluded Christian Tietz.

The teacher from Kumane in the title of Marina Veselinović's documentary film was Milan Stančić Uča, whose name is borne by the school in Kumane today. According to historical records, two of his brothers were shot in Pančevo as part of German retaliation, while he met his death in the torments of the Beisfjord camp in Norway, where he still rests today.





Guests: Vajswerk Organsation (Germany)
Filmauthor: Mariana Veselinović