**THE “LEGEND” OF TUROPOLJE'S *DRMEŠ* DANCE**

Grandpa Juraj and Grandma Katica had three granddaughters. Each of the granddaughters had her own beloved mobile phone that never slipped out of her hand wherever she found herself: at home, in bed, travelling…

One day they paid a visit to Grandma and Grandpa. They were sitting and typing on their phones, as usual. Grandma and Grandpa had had enough of it. They remembered that when they were young, they used to dance *drmeš* in their free time, so they decided to engage their granddaughters by telling them a story of how *drmeš* had come into being. Therefore, Grandma Katica began: “Once upon a time there were no mobile phones and people entertained in different ways; for example, with dancing.” Grandpa Juraj picked up from there: “Once upon a time, some people were sitting next to a fire, keeping warm and talking, when suddenly some sparks came flying out of the fire. They quickly started jumping and screaming because the sparks burned them. And this is where *drmeš* originates from.” The granddaughters burst into laughter. Grandpa admitted he had made the story up, but was still pleased for making them laugh. But now the granddaughters, finally putting their phones aside, demanded to hear more about the dance. Grandma and Grandpa began their story: “*Drmeš* is the best known and the most popular dance among Kajkavian Croats. It is danced in pairs or small circles consisting of four, or sometimes more, dancers. The first dance figure is performed in small steps without much moving around, which causes intense shaking of the whole body (*drmeš* comes from *drmati*, meaning ‘to shake’). In the second figure, the dancers dance in a circle at an unusual speed. It is interesting that Germans call this dance *Kroatisch*, which means ‘Croatian’. Older generations call it *tanac*.” “That’s so interesting, we never heard anything about that before”, responded the granddaughters. Grandpa mentioned a few more Turopolje dances: *polka, lepa Mara* and *stari ples*.

The granddaughters gave it a little thought and decided to try out *drmeš*; they formed a circle and began their dance!