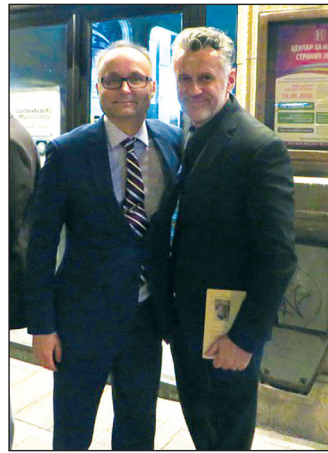


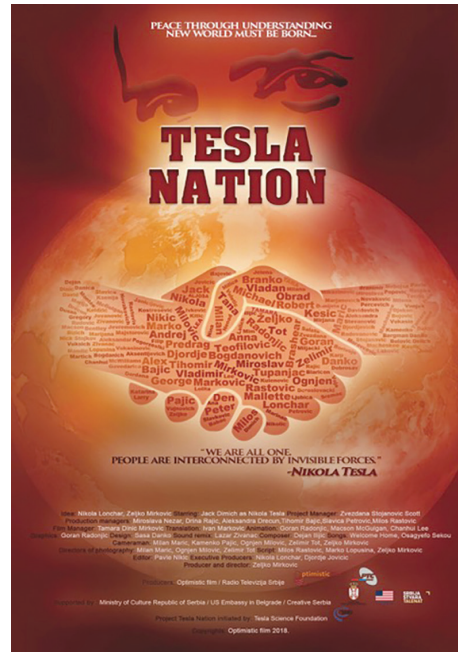
## World Premiere of the Movie “Tesla Nation” in Belgrade, Serbia



Zeljko Mirkovic, the Director and Producer of the film “Tesla Nation”



Milos Rastovic, the Screenwriter, and Jack Dimich, the main Actor in the “Tesla Nation”



Milos Rastovic, Cultural Outreach Coordinator of the SNF and the Screenwriter of the “Tesla Nation” on the premiere



Aleksandar Slavkovic, the author of the novel *The Immigrant: The Judge Fisher Story*



The team who participated after the screening

by Milos Rastovic

*“If I am fortunate enough to fulfill at least some of my ideals, that will do good for the whole of mankind. If that is achieved, I will be glad to say that a Serb has done it... I have as you may see and hear remained a Serb even overseas where I am engaged in testing. That is what you also should be and to raise the glory of Serbs in the world with your knowledge and work,”* said Nikola Tesla (1856 – 1943), Serbian-American Scientist and Inventor, during his visit to Belgrade on June 1st, 1892.

These Nikola Tesla’s thoughts were a leitmotif of the new movie “Tesla Nation.” His achievements and moral integrity became the impetus which connects Serbs in the world. On October 27th, 2018, the world premiere of the documentary “Tesla Nation” by Zeljko Mirkovic was held in the great hall of Kolarac, Belgrade, Serbia. Inside the Hall, it was standing room only as an audience, curious to know more about the Serbian Diaspora and their contributions to the United States of America and the world.

Spanning more than 200 years, the film recounts the stories of many Serbian-Americans throughout the

history. As the narrator of the movie, Jack Dimich, Serbian-American Actor, plays Nikola Tesla. Tesla leads us throughout our history from the first famous Serb, Djordje Sagic, also known as George Fisher, Mihajlo I. Pupin, Serbian-American Scientist and Inventor, World War I and II immigrants up to the present time. It stresses overall Serbian-American contributions to building America and the world.

At its conclusion, the audience applauded the film. The team who worked on the movie stepped on the stage to hail the public. Aleksandar Slavkovic, the Author of the novel *The Immigrant: The Judge Fisher Story* and participant in the movie, retold the epic story of Djordje Sagic’s life and his adventurous spirit in building America. Sagic arrived in the United States through the port of Philadelphia. In the New Continent, he fought for the independence of Texas and Mexico. His contribution to building American society was so important that today we can find Sagic’s picture in the National Museum of Texas in Houston.

Zeljko Mirkovic, the Director and Producer, stressed the importance of making this movie: “‘Tesla Nation’ is a symbol which is recognized as

a possibility to connect people in order to achieve positive goals. Today, we have a chance to choose Tesla to be a symbol to reconnect us because Tesla is the name which everybody recognizes.”

On behalf of the Serb National Federation, I was present at the premiere. As the Screenwriter and person who talks about history of Serbian-Americans in the film, I highlighted the main idea of the movie: “When the first Serbian immigrants came to the “New land,” they brought not only their talents, readiness to sacrifice their lives for ideals, but also their soul. Their soul distinguished and raised them above others. Today, our soul is the magnet which connects Serbs in different countries and continents. Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic, who was also an immigrant in the United States, described Serbian-American history with the following words: ‘It is all an amazing epopee begun by those Serbian farmers who escaped from tyranny and came to this country of freedom not to enjoy, but to become more capable to carry worries of Saint Sava and helping their families in the homeland to carry out the same worries and thus for more than 100 years until today.’”

Through the lives of Nikola Tesla and Mihajlo I. Pupin, you can introduce stories of other distinguished Serbian-Americans such as Walt Bogdanich, Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, Peter Bogdanovich, Karl Malden, Helen Delich-Bentley, Steve Tesich, Milana Bizic, John Martich, David Vuich, Branko Terzic, Branko Tujanjac, Obrad Kesic, Alex Machaskee, Michael Djordjevic, and Dr. Nenad Janicijevic among others.

The main producers of the movie are Radio Television of Serbia and Optimistic Film. Besides Milos Rastovic as main screenwriter, other screenwriters were Marko Lopusina and Zeljko Mirkovic. The Serb National Federation was also one of the sponsors of the movie. The Tesla Science Foundation initiated the filming of “Tesla Nation.”

“Tesla Nation” will be screened throughout Serbia’s cinemas and Radio Television of Serbia. The movie will have the premiere in the United States in Spring 2019. The premiere in Pittsburgh was planned at the Serbian Movie Festival at the University of Pittsburgh in Spring next year.