

Spirit of Baraka

Celebrating nonverbal films like [Baraka](#), [Koyaanisqatsi](#), [Microcosmos](#) and the people who made them

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Baraka



Koyaanisqatsi

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Samsara

Samsara is [Ron Fricke](#) 's sequel to [Baraka](#). Samsara is currently in production. Shooting commenced in 2007.

Read [Samsara press releases](#).

If you would like to receive information about Samsara when it becomes available [sign up for the newsletter](#).

Official Samsara press release

Samsara is a Tibetan word that means "the ever turning wheel of life, a concept both intimate and vast, obvious and oblique, the perfect subject for filmmakers Mark Magidson and Ron Fricke who have awed us with exquisite images of the mundane; filmmakers with an uncanny ability to reveal the elusive current of interconnection that runs through the Universe and our lives.

Both philosophically and technically, Samsara will build on the team's earlier work. Expanding on the themes of interconnection and transcendence which they developed in Baraka (1992), Samsara will focus on the cycle of Birth, Death and Rebirth, from the perspectives of many cultures. Neither a traditional documentary, nor a travelogue, Samsara will take the form of a nonverbal, guided meditation that will transform viewers in countries around the world, as they are swept along on a journey of the soul. Through powerful images, the film will illuminate the links between humanity and the rest of nature, showing how our life cycle mirrors the rhythm of the planet. Samsara will be part of a 21st Century mythology, revealing parts of our imperilled planet never before photographed. It will combine original and indigenous music with dance as well as other contemporary art forms.

Fricke and Magidson firmly believe that nonverbal films must live up to the standard of great still photography, which reveals the essence of a subject, not just the physical presence, but the inner workings as well. In order to accomplish this goal, they rely on the careful balance of three elements: cinematography, editing and music. To achieve this synthesis, the musical score for Samsara will be commensurate with the film techniques, bringing a vastly diverse musical component to the film. Approximately 15 to 20 minutes of thematic score will be composed and woven into original music from accomplished International artists, the carefully coordinated score matching the imagery in sophistication and cultural integrity.

With a team that has collaborated for over 20 years, Samsara will be filmed in 20 to 25 countries. Director/Cinematographer Ron Fricke will photograph in 70mm film using both standard frame rates and a motion control time-lapse camera designed specifically for this project. This camera system will allow him to shift perspectives to reveal extraordinary views of ordinary scenes. The film elements will be then be scanned to a digital intermediate format. Effects produced in this manner will be stunning without appearing artificial. Samsara will be the ultimate showpiece for both the HD format and high-resolution digital projection, as well as standard film projection.

After the fantastic and time proven response to Baraka (Variety declared it a "Masterpiece" and the Hollywood Reporter a "riveting" experience), Magidson and Fricke are confident that world audiences are ready for films with a life-affirming message. They aim to take the universally understood, nonverbal genre to new heights; a global vision for a global audience.

Comments

Please [leave your own comment about this page](#)

Samsara - Eric from Orange County, CA - 03-Dec-2007
I would love to buy an HD version of Baraka and Samsara!

can't wait for samsara - spacevoid8 from russia/moscow - 30-Nov-2007
i can't wait... gimme it:) i am tired to be on the watch almost year:)

music - markus from germany - 15-Nov-2007
some people here are writing bad about the music of philip glass (and do not write the name correctly - this means a lot).

first, i think you have to respect the music of others like your own taste. second, 12-tone-music is not a simple popmusic - it is minimal classic. very hard to compose and also very hard to understand. i think for some people here it is a must to listen to his music seriously before they prejudice.

otherwise i think, this people cannot understand music at all much less the movies and their messages.

definition - jw - 09-Nov-2007
Samsara is not a Tibetan word. It's Sanskrit.

Michael Sterns for soundtrack? - Darren (webmaster) from Cornwall, England - 29-Oct-2007
Michael Sterns may be involved with the soundtrack. He provided the soundtrack to Baraka and Chronos.



Dogora



Winged Migration



Chronos



Powaqqatsi



Microcosmos



Naqoqatsi



March of the Penguins



The Blue Planet

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samsara ost - [spacevoid8 from russia/moscow](#) - 28-Oct-2007

concerning music soundtrack i agree with previous comment. baraka/chronos ost - perfect stuff to hear, but i can't say in such manner about music soundtrack of "qatsi" trilogy. i simply *do not like* it at all.

no philip glass please lisa gerrard YES - [mladen from croatia](#) - 24-Oct-2007

BARAKA IS PERFECT, well let samsara be as good..soundtrack is so important...baraka has wonderfull soundtrack
i think lisa gerrard is great choice....

NO PHILIP GLASS PLEASE - [Alexander Pieri from Croatia](#) - 20-Oct-2007

I hope the Samsara movie will have wonderfull soundtrack as Baraka has. I hope Ron will not use any not from Philie Glass that made the worst concept of music ever (!!!!). How can you listen his ugly ...stuff!?!?! He ruins the movie Kundun with his ugly music (also the movie Hamburger Hill)! The movie Kundun i watch with audio down and put the CD TIBET by Mark Isham that is more perfect. Please Ron dont call Philip for the music of Samsara!!!

70mm print - [Ryan from LA](#) - 21-Sep-2007

Anyone catch the 70mm print of Baraka at the Aero in Los Angeles last weekend?

It was like Haley's comet.

Savage Garden - [Darren \(admin\)](#) - 06-Sep-2007

I'm guessing the Savage Garden project is on hold or scrapped, due to Samsara?

savage garden? - [don from rhode island usa](#) - 05-Sep-2007

what happened to the savage garden collaboration fricke was working on with reggio? the concept web site is down? anyone? bueller?

Baraka/Samsara - [Stephanie from Miami,FL born in Puerto Rico](#) - 05-Sep-2007

Well for me, Baraka was an amazing journey through countries I have never visited. This is a film that did not only make me want to visit these amazing places, but also reevaluate the priorities in my life. It reassured me that beauty is not found in objects, but rather in simple moments such as being able to see the sunrise. After seeing Baraka, and reading the notes on Samsara, I will definitely be looking forward to buying both films. Thank you!

Samsara - [Lia Scarinci from Argentina](#) - 05-Sep-2007

I cannot wait to see this new film. Baraka is truly and enlightening film that sets high standards for film making and depicts human emotion and self destruction in a short period of time. People do need to see more films like this one.Thank you...

Baraka, Samsara - [John Barbuto from Utah, USA](#) - 15-Aug-2007

Baraka was, and for me continues to be, fabulous. I've watched it many times. I purchase it for selected friends and give it as a celebration of the role of art in life: to find "the big picture" in the picture, as it were. I'm very much looking forward to Samsara.

Baraka - [Maciek from Poland](#) - 02-Aug-2007

I think Baraka is most beautiful movie i ever saw. For me its almost magical...like journey to other world..ehhh fantastic

cosmic language - [fady from Egypt](#) - 03-Jul-2007

I just saw Baraka and am exstatic in front of such a great work. I cannot say that it is has cinematographic language, instead it speaks the language of the cosmos.
This movie, along with koyanisktasi film and trilogy should be put on a medium and sent to outerspace.
They say who we are and how desperate we've become.
Waitinf Samsara.
God bless.

Details - [Super Oxen from Seattle, WA](#) - 23-May-2007

I check this board frequently hoping for bits of information on the production and eventual release of Samsara. Finally, some details emerge via the Variety article mentioned below. Specifically:
Shooting has begun, and will last 12-14 months
Lisa Gerrard (of Gladiator fame) will be involved in the score

I can't wait.

Meaning of "samsara" - [Ron Howard from Ottawa, canada](#) - 22-May-2007

I've studied sanskrit and I believe that "Samsara or saṃsāra (Sanskrit: ?????) refers to the cycle of reincarnation or rebirth in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and other related religions." Source: wikipedia for the exact definition. I'm pretty sure the root is Sanskrit.

Samsara on location. - [Jeremy from Los Angeles](#) - 20-May-2007

<http://www.variety.com/index.asp?layout=Cannes2007&jump=story&id=1061&articleid=VR1117965240>



1 Giant Leap



What the Bleep Do We Know!?



When... - Elijah from Ukraine - 13-May-2007

When will be the release of the Samsara? Can we expect on one this autumn ?

I'm so impressed... - Arseniy from Odessa, Ukraine - 14-Apr-2007

This is fantastic masterpiece! When I was watching "Baraka" I was plunged in something like wondering trance! I was so impressed, that seemed like it was flowing through me like magical emanations! Have no words, just emotions! Thank you for this incredible film!

Thank you and best wishes - Julie from Michigan, USA - 02-Apr-2007

Baraka remains one of my favorite pieces of work overall. I have the film and soundtrack and continue to enjoy both. SO look forward to "Samsara"! Thank you for your outstanding work! Beautiful to the eye, ears and spirit.

"Transit of Venus" in Samsara - Cristian from USA - 02-Apr-2007

I sincerely hope the "Transit of Venus" is featured in Samsara. The first phase of the transit of Venus began on June 8, 2004 and the 2nd phase will be completed June 6, 2012.

Malta - Samantha from Malta - 10-Mar-2007

Thank you for the blessing of Baraka. I hope you find time to visit the beautiful megaliths of Malta and Gozo in the Mediterranean, which are the oldest standing man-made structures in the world. They would be perfect for Act 3 of Samsara. Sam.

A long overdue 'thanks' - Timothy Park from San Rafael, CA - 08-Mar-2007

I hope, Mr. Fricke, that you check this site from time to time. For years, I have shown my art students (a population of developmentally disabled adults with mental illnesses) Baraka and Koyaanisqatsi on an annual basis as a source of inspiration, and to illustrate a few ways that subjects can be transformed into art by selection, by portraying them in a certain context, from a certain perspective. I do this periodically partially because a lot of them really require repetition, some have very little memory of such things, and I do get some rotation of the population. I also share the films with everyone who cares to listen or borrow my DVDs.

I finally got my hands on a copy of Chronos and watched it with my classes (ah, yes, I have four, so I get to see them several times in a week's time). I loved it, they loved it, and I thought a thank you was long over due. I can't wait to finally catch one on the big screen, when Samsara is finished.

Showing Baraka in College - Eric from USA - 03-Mar-2007

In an entry dated 08-Jan-2007, David from Madrid, Spain, writes:

"In these times of madness and despair I think it would be a good idea the play Baraka in the schools to show our children that life is much more than a Nike T-shirt or than a 3G Mobile, that our world is bigger than we can imagine, and that people is just people like you and me, no matter how far we life ones from each others...."

Not only do I completely agree, but as an instructor at a state college, I make it a point to show this film ever semester to my English 110 students, requiring them to write a journal entry about it, and encouraging them to choose it for writing their critical analysis (one of seven major term papers due each semester) instead of one of the texts we've read. I do this for two reasons: it is a lot more enjoyable to grade (laughs) and because by further reflecting and thinking about the film, it can lead to deeper and more lasting insights.

So then, everybody has to write a journal entry and some students choose to go on and write their critical analysis on the film as well. I've posted excerpts from last semester's journals at <http://www.mrrna.com/cutecast/cutecast.pl?forum=5&thread=69> in case you'd like to see how college students react to the experience. Bottom line? With few exceptions, I really think they got it and that is absolutely thrilling to me as an educator. We can sit around and read texts about cultural diversity all semester long, but in about an hour's time, we accomplish more than we do half the rest of the semester. It goes back to "show, don't tell."

give me mo' pixels - Abe from California - 26-Feb-2007

I only hope that this movie is released in a high definition format to expose the exquisite detail captured via 70mm... a re-release of Baraka in HD would be equally awesome!

quality takes time - Victor Ortiz from Los Angeles, United States - 13-Feb-2007

From past experience in watching films by Fricke and Reggio, the amount of time needed to capture the soul-piercing images with cutting-edge technology and skill is vast. Fricke has progressed so much since the 80s, and I'm willing to wait for the right time when all the elements present themselves. In today's chaotic world (any less so than the 80s and 90s?) many new splendors and horrors must be offering themselves for Fricke's eye and posterity.

Time-lapse Imagery of Baraka - Thad V'Soske from Colorado (California originally) - 05-Feb-2007

I'm on the edge of my chair waiting to experience Ron Fricke's work in Samsara. His time-lapse cinematography from the early 1990's (Baraka) is the finest I've ever seen. Baraka is simply outstanding! I can only imagine what imagery he's created since then. I've been so inspired by Baraka that I've produced my own time-lapse motion imagery of the cosmos (Cosmotions.com) and hope to be creating exciting new

time-lapse clips for the foreseeable future. I only hope to someday achieve a 'Baraka' level of quality in my own work. Ron Fricke is a masterful cinematographer and his imagery has had tremendous impact on the direction of my own creativity.

shooting now - indigo - 31-Jan-2007

mr. Fricke is shooting in New Orleans right now, so maybe the production schedule is pushed pretty far back -

Will we see Samsara in 2007 - Ilija from Montenegro, Former YU, Europe - 15-Jan-2007

I wonder will Mr. Fricke finalize his ultimate masterpiece in this year. As it says above, Baraka to Samsara will be related as some kind of introduction. We have now great expectations!!! I believe that Samsara will be the move with the potencial to change the view of a world!

Can't Wait - Steven from Ireland - 14-Jan-2007

I personally can't wait for Samsara! If it's a quarter as good as Baraka it'll be well worth the wait. I just can hope, with the rest of us here, that it'll be out soon :)

Thanks also for such a great site..

Unity, far beyond the senses - David from Madrid, Spain - 08-Jan-2007

Since the first time I watched "Baraka" more than 10 years ago, it became my favourite masterpiece of art. I have recommended this beautiful jewel to everyone, and I love to buy the DVD everytime I need to buy a present. It's the pinnacle of nature, it shows the essence of mankind and the meaning to life.

We are one. Everything is one. No matter if you die here or there, death is the same. No matter if you live in a tree or in a skyscraper, because you're living. And a tear is a tear in every part of the world.

In these times of madness and dispair I think it would be a good idea the play Baraka in the schools to show our children that life is much more than a Nike T-shirt or than a 3G Mobile, that our world is bigger than we can imagine, and that people is just people like you and me, no matter how far we live ones from each others....

A movie as amazing as life.

Hint of a release date? - pdf from new mexico - 30-Nov-2006

it's almost the end of the 2006 now, so I am expecting that Samsara will not be released until 2007. I'm sure everyone is frustrated with the lack of updates on what's going on but I guess art can't be rushed. I would just like to know if the tenetive release of 2006 has now been puched so I can rest my anxiety. So, Ron Fricke, or someone who knows, please let your audience know, what is the verdict?

Soundtrack to Samsara? - Ryan from Minnesota USA - 30-Nov-2006

Who will be provid the soundtrack to Samsara. I think it would be awesome to hear more Lisa Gerrard. Also, is there a release date in sight?

Thanks, and godspeed

Ron Fricke - Chris.Curtin from Jersey USA - 24-Nov-2006

i don't even know what to say except wow.

Samsara - Halfdan Larus Pedersen from Reykjavik, Iceland - 12-Nov-2006

Never before or after have I experianced a film as I experianced Baraka. After the final chapter I went straight back to the beginning, and ended up watching the film three times in a row. It inspires one to live life, and to further respect life. No other celebration of similar nature equals the superb quality of Baraka. Thank you. I eagerly await the release of Samsara.

When can we expect Samsara? - David from Los Angeles, CA - 01-Nov-2006

As a huge fan of the Qatsis, Chronos, and Baraka, I eagerly await Samsara--I have also noticed that the "Ashes and Snow" (traveling photography/film exhibit by Gregory Colbert) films have a certain resonance with the Fricke films. It seems to be that Colbert has been inspired by Ron Fricke's work. Great! We all need more work with this spirit.

goose bumps - ian jones from yorkshire, england - 30-Sep-2006

i've come here, following links from a utube clip of the baraka monkey chant,not knowing of samsara and 5 minutes later i am impatient for this sequel. I first saw baraka in the early 90's and it is by a clear margin my absolute favourite film, i couldn't move from my seat to leave the cinema that night, i can still remember the drive home in the dark, looking at all the headlights, knowing that THEY hadn't seen what i'd just witnessed, they didn't know what i now knew. It has burned itself into my mind and remains there to this day. I always have a wry smile when i see a tv advert/pop video/ fancy bit of filming/ same location that has been filmed in the same way, especially night time-lapse just like big K's moonrise and skyscraper moment, but times 100! for instance the tokyo crossroads- copied copied copied, and no credit given EVER to Fricke and Magidson- but we all know don't we...

Time is moving on... - Ray from Ireland - 13-Sep-2006

Well time is moving on and we are heading toward the last quarter of 2006! I was and still am blown away by Baraka. Really looking forward to Samsara. Any indication of a release date yet?

Conscience - Qental from Portugal - 07-Sep-2006

I saw "Baraka" only a few years ago.

Since then, I resaw it countless times.

Afterall, there are some Humans in Humanity...Thank you, Mr Ron Fricke!

We all have physical organs like eyes, brain, ears. But Human beings, don't use them equally. To see, to think, or to hear, is nothing if we don't merge feelings and emotions with rational thoughts. Conscience is the emergency that comes out from that, plus our experiences. However, I believe there is an abstract and absolute type of superior Conscience.

Baraka can do us two things: awakes us for that kind of Conscience all humans should have by now, or reminds us what we're here for and reguides us into the path.

Thank You again for you eyes, your brain, and your Conscience!

Non-verbal Films - Steve from Florida - 02-Sep-2006

One of the best things about DVDs is you can watch - repeatedly - these wonderful films. The Qatsi trilogy to start, Chronos, and my favorite forever, Baraka. Each viewing reveals another insight, visual, aural, or philosophical. I admire Mr. Fricke's work tremendously and can't wait to see Samsara.

none - Barna Borbath from Transsylvania - 28-Aug-2006

All these words...your synopsis...it sounds great!!!

Hardly wait the movie !!!

Can you tell me an approximate date, when will be released the film ? Please answer me ! Thank you !

baraka view - Luis from Canary Islands, Spain - 30-Jul-2006

Thanks very much for Baraka film, and many others that use this way of making films. These materials have trained my view of the world towards an amazing and comprehensive level. No words can really explain it.

Forever Moved - Barry P - 14-Jul-2006

Whenever I am asked about my favorite movie, I never hesitate to respond with 'Baraka'. It has moved me every single time I've seen it and I believe humankind would be better served if everyone were able to sit down and watch it.

Thank you.

Samsara - B Freeman from England - 02-May-2006

Be aware that there is a film 'The Samsara' with a Tibetan theme. I nearly ordered it thinking that it was 'our' Samsara!

Baraka and Samsara - Carl from Brisbane, Australia - 29-Apr-2006

I first saw Baraka in a community theatre in Adelaide, SA in the 90's. I was so inspired by it that I saw it again several times. It captivated me completely and I often reflect on the film. My dream is to visit some of the places that Ron and his crew filmed with my family. I have just read that Samsara is being made. I would like to thank Ron and his people for making a sequel to Baraka and I cannot wait to see it. Best regards - Carl.

Thank You - Abie Aguiar from Los Angeles - 14-Apr-2006

I truly believe that Baraka made me want to become a photographer. I first saw it when I was 16, after seeing the movie I saw things differently. I had never been exposed to anything like it at all. I realized that capturing powerful/beautiful images was the only thing I ever wanted to do after seeing Baraka. Now I am a professional photographer in Los Angeles (self-taught). I know it sounds cheesy, but Baraka set me along the path to where I am today. I have been waiting for the sequel ever since. Does anyone know where it will premier. I would give anything to be in that audience. www.aguiarimage.com
www.myspace.com/aguiarimage

Awakening - Cyndell from Minneapolis, MN, USA - 14-Apr-2006

I commend you on your quest of "condensing" the essence/beauty and reality of humanity (the deep stuff that no one wants to talk about, that no one can talk about). Thank you. Looking forward to Samsara.

When??? - Alina from Ukraine - 15-Mar-2006

We are waiting for release also! Thanks for making this kind of films!!

Шанувальники :))))

Release date - Darren from England - 30-Jan-2006

We currently do not have any details about the release of Samsara. As soon as we have some details this website will be updated, and a news letter sent to all members.

Samsara soon? - Amber Vriends from The Netherlands - 30-Jan-2006

Hello! As Marcel from Switzerland asked you before, please tell us, when will Samsara be released (month/date)? Can't wait! Regards, Amber Vriends

release date??? - Marcel from Switzerland - 27-Jan-2006

Baraka is one of the pivotal film releases of the '90s. And thus one cannot wait for the release of Samsara... But when is it coming???? How long must we wait.... may this receive the praise that Baraka had and may it come out soon, real soon.

Go on, Ron, How long do we have to wait really ????

Appreciation - Praveen from India - 24-Jan-2006

I watched Baraka and really fall in love with non-verbal documentary. It depicts our real love with supreme, for which every one is anxious of.

"Everybody is looking for KRISHNA. Some don't realize that they are, but they are." -george harrison

Ron Fricke - Sevhan Acar from Turkey - 18-Dec-2005

Dear Ron Fricke,
You have got to be my soulmate!:) Thank you for blessing us with Baraka and I look forward to watching Samsara!!
Sending you lots of love,
Sevhan

Samsara Retreats International - Anil De Silva from Toronto (via Sri Lanka) - 08-Dec-2005

Ayubowan("May you live long"),

I am one of the original Partners of Samsara Retreats International that intend to set up several world wide retreats that will allow people of higher intellectual and spiritual needs to gather several times a year to learn from each other and to become better human beings with spiritual and intellectual development as two desired objectives.

It will embrace a spirit of tolerance and sharing and will be strictly non denominational.

I would encourage anyone interested in my vision to join us in a) Creating the Vision for the Retreats. B) Becoming a Partner of the Global Network of Samsara Retreats C) Becoming a member of the Advisory Board to ensure an environment of learning without any close mindedness or bigotry.

"MAY ALL BEINGS BE WELL AND HAPPY"

Anil De Silva

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