



BARAKA

Baraka is an incredible nonverbal **film** containing images of 24 countries from 6 continents, created by Ron Fricke and Mark Magidson, with music from Michael Stearns and others. The film has **no plot**, contains no actors and has no script. Instead, **high quality 70mm** images show some of the best, and worse, parts of nature and human life. **Timelapse** is used heavily to show everyday life from a different perspective. *Baraka* is often considered a spiritual film.

Film Info:

2006.

80 minutes

USA

Baraka is an ancient Sufi word, which can be translated as "a blessing, or as the breath, or essence of life from which the evolutionary process unfolds." For many people Baraka is the definitive film in this style. Breathtaking shots from around the world show the beauty and destruction of nature and humans. Coupled with an incredible soundtrack including on site recordings of The Monks Of The Dip Tse Chok Ling Monastery.

Baraka is evidence of a huge global project fueled by a personal passion for the world and visual art. Working on a reported US\$4 million budget, Ron Fricke and Mark Magidson, with a three-person crew, swept through **24 countries** in 14 months to make this stunning film. One of the very last films shot in the expensive TODD-AO 70mm format, Ron Fricke developed a **computer-controlled camera** for the incredible time-lapse shots, including **New York's Park Avenue** rush hour traffic and the crowded **Tokyo subway** platforms.

Some people find the lack of context in Baraka occasionally frustrating, not knowing where a section was filmed, or the meaning of the ritual taking place. However, the DVD version includes a short behind-the-scenes featurette in which cinematographer Ron Fricke explains that the effect was intentional. "It's not where you are that's important, it's what's there." The DVD also includes behind the scenes footage, including scenes of the grueling shoot at **Ayer's Rock** in Australia, when a plague of flies of Biblical proportions made it impossible to film until they rigged up a vacuum to suck the bugs away from the lens.

<http://www.spiritofbaraka.com/baraka>