



SAMSARA

Autumn
Season
2012

Release: 2012
Cert (UK): PG
Runtime: 102 mins
Director: Ron Fricke



SAMSARA is a Sanskrit word that means “the ever turning wheel of life” and is the point of departure for the filmmakers as they search for the elusive current of interconnection that runs through our lives. Filmed over a period of almost five years and in twenty-five countries, SAMSARA transports us to sacred grounds, disaster zones, industrial sites, and natural wonders. By dispensing with dialogue and descriptive text, SAMSARA subverts our expectations of a traditional documentary, instead encouraging our own inner interpretations inspired by images and music that infuses the ancient with the modern.

Expanding on the themes they developed in BARAKA (1992) and CHRONOS (1985), SAMSARA explores the wonders of our world from the mundane to the miraculous, looking into the unfathomable reaches of man’s spirituality and the human experience. Neither a traditional documentary nor a travelogue, SAMSARA takes the form of a nonverbal, guided meditation. Through powerful images, the film illuminates the links between humanity and the rest of nature, showing how our life cycle mirrors the rhythm of the planet.

Ron Fricke is an American film director and cinematographer, considered to be a master of time-lapse photography and large format cinematography. He was the director of photography for *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982) and directed the purely cinematic non-verbal non-narrative feature *Baraka* (1992). He designed and used his own 65 mm camera equipment for *Baraka* and his later projects. He also directed the IMAX films *Chronos* (1985) and *Sacred Site* (1986). His most recent work was as cinematographer for parts of the film *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* (he was hired to shoot the eruption of Mt. Etna in Sicily for use in scenes of the volcanic planet Mustafar).