

Anthropology 536/AIS 475:
The Non-verbal Film

History of the Non-verbal Film

One might say that all film began as non-verbal film because all the early films were silent, but they nearly all interspersed text to convey narrative messages.

The first major effort that I am aware of in non-verbal films for the contemporary theater is *Koyaanisqatsi*. This film started production in the late 1970s and was first screened in commercial theaters in 1983. It is the first of a trilogy of non-verbal films using titles from the Hopi language.

Preview of Koyaanisqatsi

Preview of Powaqqatsi

Preview of and Commentary on Naqoyqatsi

Koyaanisqatsi:
Commentary on the Nature of the Film

Koyaanisqatsi:

1. Nature and Content 6.7m ⊗
2. Cinematography 3.5m
3. Music 8.5m
4. Meaning and Source of Title 2.7m

Powaqqatsi:

1. Nature and Content 3.2m*
2. Integrating the Music and the Images 6.1m
3. Techniques of Creating and Producing the Film 2.3m
4. Tech on Tech: Using High Tech to Criticize Technology, Part I 2m*

Naqoyqatsi:

1. Evolution of the Concept of the Trilogy and the Uniqueness of Naqoyqatsi 3m*
2. Music and the Trilogy 6.6m
3. Phillip Glass, Composer, and Yo-Yo Ma, Cello Soloist, in Collaboration 7m
4. Foundation Images as Locations 2.8m
5. Visual Design 11.7m
6. Visual Technology 5m
7. Tech on Tech: Using High Tech to Criticize Technology, Part II 4.5m*

General:

1. Spiritual Foundation or Expression of the Films 7.5m
2. Further Elaboration on the Concept and Evolution of the Trilogy 9m
3. Beyond the Trilogy: What is next? 3.2m
4. Further Elaboration on the Use and Meaning of the Hopi Titles 6.7m*

Koyaanisqatsi: Cinematography

Koyaanisqatsi: Music

Koyaanisqatsi: Meaning and Source of Title

The Concept Behind Powaqqatsi

Powaqqatsi: Integrating the Music and the Images

Powaqqatsi: Techniques of Creation and Production

Using High Tech to Critique Technology: Part I

Introduction to Naqoyqatsi and the Concept of the Trilogy

The Music of Naqoyqatsi and the Trilogy

Naqoyqatsi Music: Phillip Glass, Composer,
and Yo-Yo Ma, Cello Soloist, in Collaboration

Naqoyqatsi: Foundation Images as Locations

The Making of Naqoyqatsi: Visual Design

The Making of Naqoyqatsi: Visual Technology

Using High Tech to Critique Technology: Part II

The Spiritual Foundation of the -Qatsi Trilogy

The Concept and Content of the Trilogy, Part II

Beyond the Trilogy: What is next?

The Use and Meaning of the Hopi Titles

Nearing the End of the Fourth World as per Hopi Accounts

Koyaanisqatsi: Part I

Koyaanisqatsi: Urban Decay

Koyaanisqatsi: Conclusion