

# Film says a mouthful with no words

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News American Film Critic

With the exception of "My Dinner With Andre," the Louis Malle drama that was a non-stop conversation between two men, "Koyaanisqatsi" (*Koy-an-e-scotsi*), is the most unique film to play in an area theater.

This one, by first time director Godfrey Reggio, has no dialogue and no actors. Instead there is music; wonderful music with an incessant, urgent beat. And there are images that range from majestic canyons and mountains to city lights and traffic patterns that become pop art in an ever-moving tapestry of color and speed.

Though Reggio's viewpoint becomes clear as the scenes unfold into one-another, it helps to know going in, that "Koyaanisqatsi" translates into meaning "a life out of balance," or "a crazy life."

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## MOVIE REVIEW

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Reggio doesn't reveal this until the film's final credits. While one can empathize with his premise — the viewer becomes a participant by having to work through it — the initial images sweep across the screen with less impact than they would have if it were clear from the beginning where Reggio intends to go with his vision.

But "Koyaanisqatsi" is an impressive cinematic experience.

Carefully — and it took Reggio seven years to make this film — he contrasts the solitary, ageless beauty of the Western terrain with the frenetic lifestyle of the big city.

"Koyaanisqatsi" is a ★★★ movie. At the Playhouse