

# SAGRADA

the mystery of creation

A film by Stefan Haupt

Documentary / Digital (DCP & Blu-Ray) / 2012 / 90 min.  
Catalan, Spanish, French, and German w. English Subtitles



## FIRST RUN FEATURES

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## Short Synopsis:

One of the most iconic and enduring human structures ever built, Barcelona's La Sagrada Familia is a unique and fascinating architectural project conceived by Antoni Gaudi in the late 19th century. More than 125 years later after construction began, the basilica still remains unfinished. SAGRADA celebrates Gaudi's vision and the continuing work of countless laborers, artisans, designers and architects as they strive to complete the colossal project while delving into the mysterious process of artistic creation.

## Long Synopsis:

One of the most iconic and enduring human structures ever built, Barcelona's La Sagrada Familia is a unique and fascinating architectural project conceived by Antoni Gaudi in the late 19th century. More than 125 years after construction began, the basilica still remains unfinished. *Sagrada: The Mystery of Creation* celebrates Gaudi's vision and the continuing work of countless laborers, artisans, designers and architects as they strive to complete the colossal project while delving into the mysterious process of artistic creation.

La Sagrada Familia was commissioned by the Order of St Joseph in 1882. After conflicts arose between the Order and the original architect, 31 year old Antoni Gaudí was hired to complete the design. A devout Catholic and architectural prodigy, Gaudí envisioned a place of worship that combined elements of classic French Gothic style and the curvilinear, organic aspects of the budding Art Nouveau school.

Over the next century, construction was interrupted due to lack of funding and the disruption of the Spanish Civil War, World War I, and World War II. Despite decades of delays, thousands of artisans, lab, and designers have contributed to the ambitious and glorious landmark. Inspired by Gaudi's vision, the film explores our fundamentally human search for the meaning of existence, and the quest for creative expression.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Catalanian metropolis, the documentary investigates the structural developments of the Sagrada Família while allowing the audience time to observe, perceive, and reflect upon the historical, artistic and personal significance of the basilica. Director Stephan Haupt introduces us to the artists that continue Gaudi's work in the 21st Century. Etsuro Sotoo, a Japanese sculptor and former Buddhist who has worked as a chief sculptor at Sagrada Familia for over 30 years. His reverence for Gaudi's work led him to convert to Catholicism and begin advocating for Gaudi's canonization. Josep Subirachs, the highly controversial designer of the Passion façade. Jordi Bonet, the chief architect, continues to fight for the completion of the Sagrada Familia which will one day reach a height of 170m and become the tallest structure in Barcelona.

## Praise for *Sagrada*:

Much more than a film about a church. ☆☆☆☆

-Matthias Lerf, *SonntagsZeitung*

One of the most unusual documentaries of the year....Both a tour of [La Sagrada Familia] and a philosophical meditation on art, design and time. Beautiful. ☆☆☆☆

-Pascal Gavillet, *Tribune de Genève*

[Haupt] shows the juxtaposition of the sacred, the bustling Rambla, and quiet calm of the cathedral. The director manages a dense work that combines facts with philosophical questions. The film makes the mystery of La Sagrada tangible.

-Andres Herzog, *Tages-Anzeiger*

A captivating documentary.

-Le Matin

A poetic documentary that touches on essential issues. Urgently.

-Der Tagesspiegel

*Sagrada - el misteri de la creació* is dense, diverse, information-rich and yet beautiful magical... Dancer (Anna Huber) gives the film a quiet mysticism... a stirring ode to the creative power of people and their genuine ability, defying all kinds of adversity to work together to create something great.

-Irene Genhart, *Landbote*

"Sagrada" is a sensory and philosophical experience of sublime beauty.

-*Le Nouvelliste*

Fascinating pictures and amazing stories. For Barcelona fans it's a must, for all others a real find.

-*Film demnächst*

## Awards:

Erasmus EuroMedia Awards 2013, Vienna, Austria  
***Special Prize for outstanding performance on cultural history***

Kyiv International Documentary Film Festival „Kinolitopys“  
***First Prize, Architecture and film***

## Festivals:

August 2012    Locarno International Film Festival, Switzerland

March 2013    Miami International Film Festival, USA

March 2013    ArtFiFa, Festival Int. du Film sur l'Art, Montreal, Canada

March 2013    Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, Greece

April 2013    FCLM Festival du Cinéma Latino-Américain de Montréal, Canada

May 2013    Doc Planeta, Warsaw, Poland

May 2013    Kyiv International Documentary Film Festival „Kinolitopys“

June 2013    International Art Book and Film Festival, the FILAF, Perpignan, France

July 2013    Madrid Film Festival, Spain

October 2013    Vancouver Latin American Film Festival, Victoria, Canada

October 2013    ARTECINEMA 2013, Naples, Italy

October 2013    Architecture and Design Film Festival, New York, USA

October 2013    Seattle Latino Film Festival (SLFF), USA

Spring 2014    Architecture and Design Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA

## Director's Statement:

Biographies, in whatever form, fascinate me. They confront me with my own story. Where does a particular person come from, where is he or she now, where is he or she going? Could their life have taken a different course? Do we create our own biography? Or does it take its own, pre-set course? These are associative thoughts, reflections, and fundamental questions about life and its meaning.

Just like human beings, buildings and artistic creations have their biography and their genesis: they have an origin, "parents", a moment of creation and birth and then a life until they are accomplished - or destroyed - with a possible continuation in a modified form. These biographies are fascinating and moving too.

The focus of this film is the biography of the Sagada Família, a biography unfinished as yet, but which has already filled volumes.

I would like to tell this story "from the core and from within", taking details and the everyday life of workers, sculptors and architects as a starting point. Slowly the outer history will build around it, from first sketches and historical building stages to today's development.

## La Sagrada Familia:

Barcelona has always been considered as a melting pot of cultures and religions, a place of intermixing and integration, with the roots reaching far back into the history of the Occident. People who live here and people who used to live here: Iberians, Romans, Catholics, Cathars, Muslims, Jews... Legend has it that the Holy Grail as described in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival* is located in the mountains of Montserrat (Montsalvat). Today, Catalonia and its urban centre of Barcelona have an independent status within Spain, and its identity of a "historical autonomous community" is of great importance to its inhabitants. So it is a place where western history is deeply rooted, but which has also kept adapting, transforming and renewing itself over the years. This is where the foundations were laid for the "Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família" on 19 March 1882, the name day of Saint Joseph. The competent diocesan architect supervised the construction work until the crypt capitals were built. Soon there were disagreements with the building manager, so the architect handed the project back after only one year.

It came as a surprise when, on November 3, 1883, a young architect was appointed as the new site manager: Antoni Gaudí. In the first few years, work progressed well. In subsequent years, however, and particularly during World War I, delays kept occurring because of lacking funds. Occasionally, work even came to a standstill. From the outset, Gaudí had suggested a ground plan in the form of a Latin cross. Following his predilection for symbolism, he attached great importance to structural and decorative elements which were to confer a symbolic value to the church. Thus the entire surface of the birth façade, for instance, is adorned with countless sculptures and decorative elements. Amidst religious motifs, there are plants, animals and abstract forms, as well as contemporary sculptures, for example an anarchist holding a bomb.

At Antoni Gaudí's death in 1926, the site management was entrusted to his student and long-term assistant Domènec Sugranyes, who continued working on the building for ten more years, until anarchists destroyed the workshop of the late Gaudí in 1936, after the outbreak of the Spanish civil war. Original sketches and architectural drawings went up in flames. Plaster models were smashed to smithereens. In despair, Sugranyes resigned and died a short while later, from grief, according to Conxita and Ramon Sugranyes, his children advanced in years.

Today, however, more than seventy years later, building work, developments, changes, improvements and refinements continue in every nook and cranny at an unprecedented pace. Every year, the proliferating building site attracts some three million visitors from the four corners of the globe, because the mysterious process of creation and of something in the making seems to be almost within reach and physically tangible. The film leads from the crypt via the birth and passion façades to the unfinished glory façade, an immensely huge, empty white wall which is open for projects of all sorts. Then the film leads further up, to a building site at a dizzying height, where five cranes are installed on the nave to tackle another six of a total of eighteen towers. One of them, the Tower of Jesus Christ, will be the world's highest steeple once it is completed.

## Cast and Crew:

Screenplay and director	Stefan Haupt
Camera	Patrick Lindenmaier
Sound	Francesc Canals
Editor	Christof Schertenleib
Assistant editor	Claudia Lorenz
Speaker	Hanspeter Müller-Drossaart
Commentary	Stefan Haupt, Martin Witz
Music	J. P. Goljadkin
Sound editing / mixing	Guido Keller
Lighting	Patrick Lindenmaier
Title	Brigae Haelg
Production management Barcelona	Marta Castañe
Production assistant Barcelona	Carolina Trujillo
Production assistant Switzerland	Christa Gall
Camera 2 <sup>nd</sup> unit	Antonio Pérez Molero
Sound 2 <sup>nd</sup> unit	Gerard Tàrrega
Jaume Torreguitart	Foreman
Etsuro Sotoo	Sculptor
Jordi Bonet i Armengol	Chief architect
Joan Rigol i Roig	Former president- Sagrada Família Foundation
Joan Bassegoda i Nonell	Director Cátedra Gaudí
Raimon Panikkar	Professor of religious studies
Lluís Bonet i Armengol	Priest
Conxita and Ramon Sugranyes i de Franch	Contemporary witnesses
David Mackay	Urban planner and architect
Mariona Bonet	Architect
Josep Subirachs	Sculptor
Judit Subirachs	Art historian
Jordi Savall i Bernadet	Musician and conductor
Josep Tallada	Model maker
Mark Burry	Architect
Joan Vila-Grau	Stained-glass artist
Luard Bonet	Stained-glass maker
Ramon Espel i Rosell	Site manager
Anna Huber	Dancer, special guest