



“Is it too early to announce the most beautiful film of 2009?

It’s hard to imagine a more transporting cinematic experience coming our way than *Azur & Asmar*!”

– *Chicago Tribune*

“Impossibly gorgeous!”

“The year’s most beautiful animated film!”

– *Salon*

“Eye-popping and richly satisfying!”

“A story at once whimsical and epic!”

– *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Sheer dazzlement!”

“Cinema whose every frame could be hung on an art gallery wall.”

– *Financial Times*

“Pure magic!”

– *Hollywood Reporter*

AZUR AND ASMAR

France, Animation, Michel Ocelot, 2006/2008, 99 min

In English – Recommended ages 6 to adult

URBAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS ONE WEEK ONLY, MAR 13 - 19!

Set in the Middle Ages, *Azur and Asmar* is the story of two boys raised as brothers. Azur and Asmar are lovingly cared for by Asmar’s gentle mother, who tells them magical stories of her faraway homeland and of beautiful, imprisoned Fairy Djinn waiting to be set free. Time passes, and one day Azur’s father, the master of the house, provokes a brutal separation. Azur is sent away to study, while Asmar and his mother are driven out, homeless and penniless.

Years later, as a young adult, Azur remains haunted by memories of the sunny land of his nanny, and sets sail south across the high seas to find the country of his dreams. Arriving as an immigrant in a strange land, Azur is rejected by everyone he meets on account of his “unlucky” blue eyes, until finally he resolves never to open those eyes again. The once-beautiful child clad in gold is reduced to a blind beggar. Yet, blind though he is, little by little and step by step, he discovers a beautiful and mysterious country. Meanwhile, back in her homeland, Azur’s nanny has become a wealthy merchant and Asmar has grown into a dashing horseman. Reunited but now as adversaries, the two brothers set off on a dangerous quest to find and free the Fairy of the Djinn.

See more at the film’s official site, www.gkids.tv !