

The Secret of Moonacre
Hungary/UK/France – US PREMIERE
Live Action, Gabor Csupo, 2008, 97 min
In English

Recommended ages 5 to 12
IFC – Sat, Feb 28, 11:30am
CANTOR – Sun, Mar 8, 1:00pm

The new feature from *Bridge to Terabithia* director Gabor Csupo (who is also creator of *Rugrats*) is a fairy-tale fantasy adventure complete with misty castles, a danger-filled forest, a black lion, a magic pearl necklace, and a reluctant young city-girl-turned-princess, decked out in an ever-growing collection of opulent, Victorian-era dresses. When Maria Merryweather's father dies she is forced to leave civilized London and go live with her reclusive uncle at Moonacre Manor, the family's remote and rundown estate in the woods. Maria, played by up-and-coming Dakota Blue Richards (*The Golden Compass*), soon finds intrigue within the walls of Moonacre, as the large and crumbling castle is full of enchanted servants, hidden passages... and one dark and ancient secret: Long ago, a bitter feud between the Merryweathers and the rival De Noir family (headed by Tim Curry) placed a curse on the land that only the young Moon Princess can undo. So Maria leaves the safety of Moonacre and enters the forbidden forest, where she comes face to face with a gang of marauding De Noir bandits—though with their black eye-liner and coordinated bowler hats, these smooth-faced young ruffians are about as menacing as an 80's New Wave boy band. But this is a fairy tale and all is for the best, as soon the head boy-bandit and scion of the De Noir clan has switched sides, defying his father to help Maria find the magic pearls and fulfill her quest.