

the SCENE

EDITED BY
SYLVANA SOTO W.

AN EDUCATION PREMIERE

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Fans of *Mad Men*-era nostalgia were out last night for the New York premiere of **Lone Scherfig**'s *An Education* at the Paris Theatre. The coming-of-age British drama set in suburban, preswinging sixties' London was an

audience favorite at Sundance mainly due to the breakout performance of English newcomer **Carey Mulligan**.

The film, which was adapted by **Nick Hornby** from the memoir of the same name by **Lynn Barber**, tells the story of Jenny (Mulligan), a smart, bright-eyed, Oxford-bound schoolgirl, obsessed with the French New Wave. Jenny is whisked away on a whirlwind romance when she meets David (**Peter Sarsgaard**), a charming, witty older man who grants her access to a world beyond the dreary Latin classes and cello lessons her conservative parents (**Alfred Molina** and **Cara Seymour**) and stern headmistress (**Emma Thompson**) inflict upon her.

After the screening, Mulligan—who'd updated the bookish school uniform she wore in the film to a Prada cocktail dress—laughed off suggestions that she and Sarsgaard, who have an enchanting on-screen chemistry, were the new **Audrey Hepburn** and **Clark Gable**. “Which way around is it, do you think?” she asked.

Sarsgaard and his wife, **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, were joined by the rest of the cast, including **Dominic Cooper** (who plays David's suave business partner, Danny), for the after-party at Brasserie 8 1/2. There, Mulligan could be seen chatting with **Shia LaBoeuf** and director **Oliver Stone**. The trio is currently in New York filming the sequel to Stone's ode to eighties' excess, *Wall Street*.

—**Freddie Champion**

Photo: *From left:* Alfred Molina, Carey Mulligan, Peter Sarsgaard and Dominic Cooper. (Patrick McMullan)