



An Education

2009, Uk, 95 mins, PG 13.

The memoirs of Lynn Barber, adapted by Nick Hornby.

Directed by Lone Scherfig, starring Carey Mulligan and Peter Sarsgaard.

Screening 7.30 – 10.00 Friday 9th April

Lynn Barber

Born in 1944 Lynn Barber is a British journalist who has written for such publications as, *The Sunday Times*, *The Independent on Sunday* and *Vanity Fair*. Barber is known by many for her interviews, a selection of which have been published in two books, *Mostly Men* and *Demon Barber*.

In 2003 Barber wrote a short biographical piece for the literary magazine *Granta*. It was this piece that was the start of her auto-biography *An Education*. Starting when Barber was a teenager at the beginning of the 1960s the memoir tells of her encounter and relationship with a much older man, her time studying English Literature at Oxford University and her husband, David whom she met while at Oxford and who died while in his mid-fifties. Two chapters of the book are devoted to him. The overall theme of the book is the 'unknowability of other people.'



Jenni Harding

The Adaption

The film version of *An Education* was adapted for the screen by writer Nick Hornby whose other works include the novels *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy*. Both of these were adapted by Hornby for film. It wasn't until June 2009, after filming for *An Education* had been completed that Barber's book was published. Therefore Hornby wrote the screenplay based on Barber's original essay for *Granta* magazine.



The Film

An Education is a coming of age story set in the 60s. The main character's desire to find a more exciting life beyond her suburban upbringing is something that is still relevant to the audiences of today. The film won the audience award at the Sundance Film Festival, Best film and Best Director at the BAFTAS, and Carey Mulligan was nominated for best actress at the Oscars for her role as Jenny.