

LANGUAGE LEVEL: B1 INTERMEDIATE

CAREY MULLIGAN STYLISH STARLET

Pese a la oposición de sus padres, Carey Mulligan consiguió su primer papel en el cine antes de cumplir los veinte años. Hoy ya es una actriz consagrada, que fue nominada al Oscar por su papel en *An Education*.

Since her debut film role playing the sister of Keira Knightley in *Pride and Prejudice* (2005), 25-year-old British actress Carey Mulligan has been going from strength to strength. She has even been compared to iconic actress Audrey Hepburn for her role in our May movie *An Education*. Yet at one time Mulligan almost gave up on her dream of pursuing drama.

EARLY DAYS
Mulligan was born in London to an English father and a Welsh mother.

Her grandfather is Irish, Carey's father managed European hotels, and the family spent eight years living in luxury hotels in the UK and abroad.

Carey developed an interest in acting as her mother used to take her to see Broadway shows in New York. Her parents disapproved of her following a career in the notoriously fickle entertainment industry, however, and were keen that she go to university instead. Nevertheless, she secretly applied to three drama schools... and was rejected by them all. She admitted later that these setbacks led her to question whether

she should follow her dream of becoming an actress at all.

LUCKY BREAK

Carey was determined, however! In 2004, when she heard that auditions were coming up for a new film version of the Jane Austen novel *Pride and Prejudice*, she turned to an unlikely person for help: her school headmistress! She helped Carey make contact with actor and screenwriter Julian Fellowes.

As luck would have it, Fellowes introduced Carey to a casting agent who was looking for an unknown actress to play a role in the film, which also starred well-known actors Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen. When Carey auditioned for a role she won the part of Kitty, the frivolous younger sister of the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet. *Pride and Prejudice*,



from main photo: Carey Mulligan in *Never Let Me Go* and *Whiplash*. In *Love, Simon*, *Fast Times in Rio*, *Money Never Sleeps*.

directed by Joe Wright, turned out to be a critical success.

With her career just underway, Carey had to work hard to keep it on track. She played roles on TV, in the BBC's award-winning adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Bleak House* (2005) and another Jane Austen adaptation, *Northanger Abbey* (2007). She also starred in contemporary roles, including in an episode of cult series *Doctor Who* for which she won an award. Then her career took yet another unusual turn!

FLYING HIGH

Normally actors go from stage to film, Carey Mulligan did the opposite. In 2007, she was cast in a Broadway theatre production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*. The play, written in 1896, has been staged many times but this version was



highly praised. In the sometimes strange language that theatre critics use, *The Daily Telegraph* called her performance "quite extraordinarily radiating" and *The Observer* found it "almost unbearably" affecting. Stage success led to the biggest role of her acting career!

AWARDS AND ONWARDS

Although Carey was six years too old for the part, her performance as 16-year-old Jenny in *An Education* (2009) was universally praised. She was nominated for a Golden Globe, an Academy Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award, and received a British Academy Film Award. She went on to star in Oliver Stone's *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps* (2010)

GLOSSARY

- 1 FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: de éxito en éxito
- 2 TO GIVE UP: abandonar
- 3 TO DISAPPROVE: desaprobar
- 4 FICKLE: voluble
- 5 KEEN: ansioso
- 6 TO APPLY: solicitar el ingreso
- 7 DETERMINED: decidido, resuelto
- 8 WERE COMING UP: pronto habrá
- 9 UNLIKELY: improbable
- 10 AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT: por azar
- 11 TURNED OUT TO BE: resultó ser
- 12 ON TRACK: bien encaminado
- 13 TURN: giro
- 14 STAGE: escenario
- 15 TO PRAISE: elogiar
- 16 UNEARTHLY: insoprahablemente
- 17 AFFECTING: alicuados
- 18 CHARM: encanto
- 19 COMMON: estafador

Educating Jenny

Set in 1960s Middlesex, on the outskirts of London, *An Education* is the story of schoolgirl Jenny Mellor (Carey Mulligan) who falls for the charms of an older man: David Goldman (Peter Sarsgaard), and nearly throws away her bright future for him. Based on an autobiographical article by British journalist Lynn Barber, the screenplay was by writer Nick Hornby. The film was directed by the female filmmaker from Denmark, Lone Scherfig.

