



## 85 countries vie for foreign language film Oscar

### Description

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13 — Yemen is competing for an Academy Award for best foreign language film for the first time, one of 85 countries submitting entries including Paul Verhoeven's *Elle* and Pedro Almodovar's *Julieta*, organisers announced Tuesday.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which presents the Oscars, will consider Yemeni director Khadija al-Salami's *I Am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced* — which explores the culture of child brides — it said in a statement.

The entries for Best Foreign Language Film also include Dutch director Verhoeven's *Elle*, a transgressive thriller starring French actress Isabelle Huppert, and *Afterimage*, by the legendary Polish director Andrzej Wajda, who died Sunday.

Wajda portrayed the last years of avant-garde painter Wladyslaw Strzemiński, who battled Stalinist orthodoxy, in a film some see as a metaphor for present-day Poland under the conservative Law and Justice Party.

Mexico's Jonas Cuarón, son of star director Alfonso Cuarón, directed his country's entry, the thriller *Desierto*, while Spain entered Almodovar's *Julieta*, a vibrant portrait of a woman confronting crisis.

Switzerland submitted the animated *My Life as a Zucchini*, by Claude Barras, and Italy sent Gianfranco Rosi's *Fire at Sea*, a documentary about migrants' lives, focusing on the Italian island of Lampedusa.

The academy will make a preliminary cut later this year before announcing five finalists in January.

The 89th Oscars ceremony is set for February 26, 2017.

Hungary's *Son of Saul*, by director Laszlo Nemes, won the prestigious award this year. — AFP

(Source: <http://www.themalaymailonline.com>)

### Category

1. Academy Awards
2. Venice International Film Festival

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