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Frances McDormand honoured at Venice Film Festival

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The Fargo star attended Monday's gala ceremony with her husband and frequent collaborator, director Joel Coen.

McDormand curtsied on taking to the stage to accept the award before thanking the festival for the "great honour" in Italian.

The actress made her feature film debut 30 years ago in Coen's Blood Simple.



McDormand has appeared in several of her husband's films including *The Man Who Wasn't There*

Venice festival director, Alberto Barbera, [praised McDormand](#) for her "consistent vision of art and the world that is often positive and... that stands in contrast to today's dominant system of values".

McDormand was also in Venice to promote her new HBO mini-series, *Olive Kitteridge*, based on the Pulitzer prize-winning novel by Elizabeth Strout.

The actress plays a no-nonsense high school maths teacher in the four-part adaptation, which is set to air in the US in November.

McDormand, 57, who won an Oscar for best actress for her role as a pregnant police chief in the 1996 thriller *Fargo*, said she was "gratified to be at a film festival with *Olive Kitteridge*".

Television has "allowed all of us to reinvent on our own terms what we want our professional lives to be", she said.

"For a female elder, action roles in films are limited, but television opens up new possibilities."

Joel and Ethan Coen recently adapted their film *Fargo* for a television series starring Billy Bob Thornton and *Sherlock*'s Martin Freeman.

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