



JOEL AND ETHAN COEN

preside over the Jury of the 68th Festival de Cannes

Palme d'or laureates in 1991, the Coen brothers are part of the Festival's history. Since *Raising Arizona* (1987), their second film, they have been invited into the Official Selection and have presented nine of their films, often winning the most prestigious prizes: the Palme d'or in 1991 for *Barton Fink*; the Award for Best Director in 1996 for *Fargo* as well as for *The Man Who Wasn't There* in 2001. And in 2013, *Inside Llewyn Davis* won the Grand Prix, from Steven Spielberg. From New York, where Joel studied film, the Coen brothers have become the embodiment of independent cinema, and let's not forget that they have collaborated since their first film, *Blood Simple* in 1984, which won the Grand Prix at Sundance Film Festival. After *Miller's Crossing* and *Raising Arizona*, both critically acclaimed, it was *Barton Fink* which brought international recognition. The brothers asserted their talent and originality in films such as *Fargo*, which was extremely popular with audiences, *The Big Lebowski*, which has acquired cult status with many film lovers, and *O'Brother, Where Art Thou*, which gave George Clooney his first big comedy role. They always work together on films, for which Ethan (himself an author, with a short story collection, *Gates of Eden*, published in 1998 and newly re-edited in France) is the producer and Joel the director, and since 2004 they have credited themselves together for the script, directing, editing, and production, reinforcing the image of a kind of cinema as personal as it is brotherly.

Carol

Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara awed the Cannes audience this year with the very well crafted "Carol", for which, Rooney Mara also won Best Actress this year. The movie is set in New York in the early 1950s, where Therese Belivet, is working in a Manhattan department store and dreaming of a more fulfilling life when she meets Carol Aird, an alluring woman trapped in a failing marriage. As an immediate connection sparks between

them, the innocence of their first encounter dims and their connection deepens. When Carol's intimacy with Therese comes to light, Carol's husband retaliates by challenging her competence as a mother. And as Carol and Therese take refuge on the road, leaving their respective lives behind, a confrontation emerges that will test each woman's assumptions about herself and commitments to one another.

