

"MUST-SEE"

-INDIEWIRE-

"DEEPLY PERSONAL"

-DOCUMENTARY MAGAZINE-

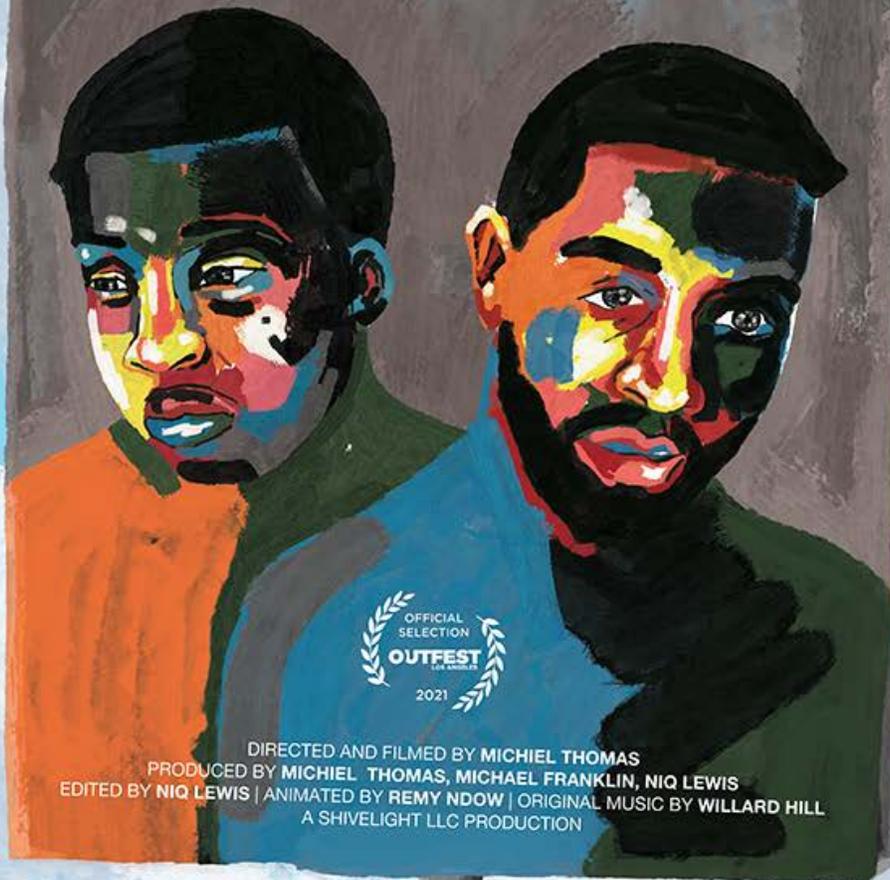
"TIMELY AND HEARTBREAKING"

-PRIDE-

"ONE OF THE BEST DOCUMENTARIES OF THE YEAR"

-AWARDS DAILY-

# GEMMEL & TIM



DIRECTED AND FILMED BY MICHEL THOMAS  
PRODUCED BY MICHEL THOMAS, MICHAEL FRANKLIN, NIQ LEWIS  
EDITED BY NIQ LEWIS | ANIMATED BY REMY NDOW | ORIGINAL MUSIC BY WILLARD HILL  
A SHIVELIGHT LLC PRODUCTION

## GEMMEL & TIM

### LOGLINE:

In 2017 and 2019, Gemmel “Juelz” Moore (26) and Timothy “Tim” Dean (55), two gay black men, died of a meth overdose at the West Hollywood apartment of white businessman, activist & political donor Ed Buck (66). The parallel stories of these two men, are intimately told by the friends who loved them, grieve their loss, and who hope to protect others from similarly tragic fates.



*Gemmel Moore & Timothy Dean*

### SYNOPSIS:

In 2017 and 2019 respectively, Gemmel “Juelz” Moore and Timothy “Tim” Dean, two gay black men, both died of a meth overdose at the now-infamous Laurel Street apartment of Ed Buck, a once influential Democratic donor, businessman and animal, LGBTQ+, political activist. The deaths sent shockwaves through LA’s LGBTQ+ community and particularly West Hollywood, LA’s gay mecca.

The ensuing media circus cooked up a spicy concoction of sex, drugs, race and politics, but had no appetite for the in-depth human stories of who Gemmel and Tim truly were.

This documentary looks at Gemmel and Tim’s parallel walks of life through the eyes of their extended families: Memories, correspondence, things they did and didn’t share with each other, and the reasons that led them to their tragic fate. The film simultaneously investigates the heinous details of the crimes and offers a cautionary tale that can help these events from happening in the future. Through these intimate recollections of their lost friends, each character exposes their own personal journey in dealing with grief and loss.



*Friends, family and activists call to prosecute Ed Buck (right)*

## GEMMEL & TIM

## METADATA:

Type	Feature Documentary
Genre & Themes	LGBTQ+, True Crime, Race, Politics, Drugs
Duration	91 minutes
Language	English
Production Year	2021
Country of Origin	USA
Color	Color
Screen Format / Aspect Ratio	4K - 16:9 Widescreen 1.78:1
Audio	Stereo
Export	DCP, Apple Prores 442 HQ
Copyright	Shivelight LLC 2021

## PREMIERE & RECEPTION:

*Gemmel & Tim* world premiered at Outfest Los Angeles 2021 on August 15. The feature doc finished as the runner-up in the IMDb Audience Award with a 9.2/10 score. The film was received well by critics:

- **[THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER:](#)**  
*"Gemmel & Tim examines the ripped-from-the-headlines stories of how two men died in the West Hollywood home of prominent political donor Ed Buck."*
- **[AWARDSDAILY:](#)**  
*"It's one of the best documentaries of the year."*
- **[INDIEWIRE: Outfest 2021: 10 Must-See Films: "Gemmel & Tim"](#)**  
*"Through meticulous research and journalistic approach, documentarian Michiel Thomas charts the progression of Buck's crimes, including former District Attorney Jackie Lacey's initial decision not to prosecute, tireless efforts to keep the story in the news, and the efforts of their deaths on personal friends of both friends."*
- **[DOCUMENTARY MAGAZINE:](#)**  
*"The film expertly chronicles the pain and anger of a community..." "...it stands out in its dedication to honoring the lives of these victims through the voices of those who cared about them the most."*
- **[PRIDE.COM:](#)**  
*"Beautiful and heartbreaking. Through archival footage, testimonials from friends and family, and artistic elements, Gemmel and Tim beautifully tells a tragic and haunting story."*
- **[THE QUEER REVIEW: ★★★★★ \(4/5\)](#)**  
*"This artfully-made, well-rounded film tells a tragic story but leaves you with hope as it provides a space for Black voices to be heard, for justice to finally be served, and for some real change."*
- **[THIS WEEK IN TEXAS MAGAZINE: ★★★★★ \(5/5\)](#)**  
*"A riveting and emotional account... I highly recommend this Film!"*
- **[THE GEEKIARY: "Gemmel & Tim" Serves a Timely Doc About Seeking Justice in the Queer Community.](#)**  
*"A documentary with a lot of heart. Interviews with Gemmel and Tim's relatives will tug at your heartstrings."*
- **[EAST BAY AREA REPORTER – Seriously cinematic: Outfest LA's choice flicks](#)**  
*"This documentary is both hard-hitting and inspirational, an unexpected gem."*



## GEMMEL & TIM

## CREATIVE TEAM:

### ***Michiel Thomas – Director/Executive Producer/Cinematographer/Co-Editor:***

Belgian native Michiel Thomas (35) is a documentary filmmaker based in Los Angeles, CA. His debut *Game Face* was distributed by Netflix in 2016, screened at more than 50 film festivals worldwide and won 12 awards, including the Audience Award at Frameline 2015. His next feature doc *That's Wild* (2020) was sold to PBS and AMC Networks, screened at 30+ film festivals and won 4 awards.

#### *Filmmaker's Motivation:*

Being part of the LGBTQ+ community in Los Angeles, this is a story I'm extremely passionate about for many reasons. According to the DCD, from 2008 to 2017, the number of fatalities from meth in LA county rose by 707%; approximately one death per day. An alarming trend that I witness with my own eyes – in 2020 I myself lost a friend due to the meth epidemic.

I'm a member of the LA gay basketball league (LAMBDA), where Tim Dean used to play, so Tim's death has affected my close social circle deeply. I hear their outcry for justice and I want to play my part in ensuring Gemmel and Tim's deaths weren't in vain. By shedding a light on their lives, told by authentic voices who knew them best, I want to provide Gemmel and Tim's extended family a platform to grieve, to show who their friend really was, and to offer solutions to prevent these tragic events from happening in the future. I am extremely blessed to collaborate with very talented, diverse and beautiful souls on this project:

### ***Michael Franklin – Producer:***

Michael Franklin is an American actor and producer. He plays the recurring role of Young Leander "Shreve" Scoville on the Apple TV+ drama series *Truth Be Told*. His most recent appearance is in the series *Atypical* on Netflix and *9-1-1: Lone Star* on FOX. Michael Franklin is one of the producers on Michiel Thomas' previous documentary feature *That's Wild* and a longtime friend.

### ***Niq Lewis – Editor & Producer:***

Niq Lewis is an award-winning promo editor with over 10 years experience editing narrative and commercial content for clients that include Vice Media Group, TV ONE, BET, Food Network, Fox, Lifetime, Macy's, Home Depot, and Booz Allen Hamilton, to name a few. Most recently she edited the Netflix feature documentary *In Our Mothers' Gardens*.

### ***Remy M Ndow – Animator:***

Remy M Ndow is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp in Belgium. He has cut his teeth working on film and television projects with Anthony Nti, commercials and video clips for artists such as Darrell Cole, Bart Peeters and Helen. His commercial work includes clients such as JBC, Levis Paint and Scarlet.

### ***Willard Hill – Composer:***

Willard Hill is an American rapper, singer-songwriter, and producer from New Orleans, LA. Hill got his start in song writing and producing working with Wyclef Jean and Jerry Wonda after moving to New York City in 2008. He currently lives in Los Angeles and works on music and film compositions.

## BOOKINGS & SALES:

### **[The Film Collaborative:](#)**

Orly Ravid - Distribution & Sales: [orly@thefilmcollaborative.org](mailto:orly@thefilmcollaborative.org) | +1 323.610.8128

Jeffrey Winter - Festivals & Screenings | [jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org](mailto:jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org) | +1 818.679.8751

## GEMMEL & TIM

Shivelight LLC | Michiel Thomas, 1120 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street #1506, Los Angeles, CA, 90017  
+1 818 284 8216 [info@michielthomas.com](mailto:info@michielthomas.com) [www.michielthomas.com](http://www.michielthomas.com) [www.gemmelandtim.com](http://www.gemmelandtim.com) @gemmelandtim