

# GEMMEL & TIM



"MUST-SEE"  
-INDIEWIRE-

"DEEPLY PERSONAL. STANDS OUT"  
-DOCUMENTARY MAGAZINE-

"ONE OF THE BEST DOCUMENTARIES OF THE YEAR"  
-AWARDS DAILY-

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



## GEMMEL & TIM

### LOGLINE:

Award-winning documentary Gemmel & Tim explores the lives and untimely passings of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean, two Black gay men who both died from meth overdoses at the home of West Hollywood politico Ed Buck. Powerful and galvanizing, Gemmel & Tim simultaneously investigates the crimes and offers a cautionary tale to keep these events from repeating.



*Gemmel Moore & Timothy Dean*

### SYNOPSIS:

The intimate award-winning true crime documentary Gemmel & Tim explores the lives and untimely passings of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean, two Black gay men who both died from meth overdoses at the home of West Hollywood politico Ed Buck. Their deaths at the now-infamous apartment sent shockwaves through the LGBTQ+ community. 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 these individuals truly were. This documentary looks at Gemmel and Tim's parallel walks of life through the eyes of their extended and chosen families – memories, correspondence, and things they did and didn't share with each other. Through intimate recollections of their lost friends, each character exposes their own personal journey in dealing with grief. Powerful and galvanizing, GEMMEL & TIM simultaneously investigates the crimes and offers a cautionary tale to keep these events from repeating.



*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

## FILM FESTIVALS & RECEPTION:

Gemmel & Tim premiered at **Outfest LA 2021** and is selected for the **Palm Springs International Film Festival 2022**. The film won the **Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature** at the **Chicago Reeling LGBTQ+ Film Festival 2021**, **Black Alphabet 2021** and finished runner-up for the **Filmfestival Oostende Audience Award 2022** in Belgium. It also received the honors of **Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature** at the **Seattle Queer Film Festival 2021** and **OUTSHINE Fort Lauderdale 2021**. At the **Ouray International Film Festival 2022**, the doc won the **Student Award** and **Best Director**. At **Out Film Connecticut 2022** Gemmel & Tim received **Documentary Jury Special Mention**. **PrideIndex.com's Esteem Awards** honored the film with a **National Special Recognition** for the efforts in supporting the African-American and LGBT communities in the areas of entertainment, media, civil rights, business and art. Thus far, Gemmel & Tim has been selected by over 35 international film festivals in the USA, Canada and Europe.

The doc was received well by film critics. **Indiewire** described Gemmel & Tim as “*must-see*.” In an extended review, the **Chicago Tribune** summarized the film as “*a deeply moving documentary*”, similar to **Documentary Magazine's** “*deeply personal. Stands out.*” **Awardsdaily.com** published “*it's one of the best documentaries of the year,*” and **The Queer Review** concluded with “*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.*”



Left: Producers Michael Franklin and Niq Lewis, Talent DeMarco Majors and Director Michiel Thomas  
Right: Gemmel & Tim world premiere at Outfest LA 2021.

## GEMMEL & TIM

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## CREATIVE TEAM:

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

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 – Producer, Editor & Writer:***

Niq Lewis is an award-winning promo editor with over 10 years of 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.

### ***"I Matter" by JayBezz ft. Tish Nixon – Soundtrack:***

JayBezz is a LA based artist, activist, entrepreneur, and media producer, working to amplify the voices of Queer PoC in technology, politics, media, and pop culture. JayBezz created the song "I Matter" with LaTisha Nixon, Gemmel Moore's mother, to honor Gemmel and to give a voice to the voiceless Queer PoC in our society.

## BOOKINGS & SALES:

*Distribution & Sales:* Passion River Films | Josh Levin | [josh@passionriver.com](mailto:josh@passionriver.com) | +1 732-321-0711 x 180

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

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