



Directed by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason
Produced by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason
Shane Bitney Crone
Starring Shane Bitney Crone
Thomas Lee Bridegroom
Music by Colleen McMahon
Cinematography Linda Bloodworth-Thomason
Edited by Nicolas Romolini
Patricia Barnett
Brad Durante

Bridegroom (full title: Bridegroom: A Love Story, Unequaled) is a 2013 American documentary film about the relationship between two young gay men, produced and directed by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason. Bridegroom

premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival on April 23, 2013, and attracted further press coverage because its premiere screening at the festival was introduced by former President Bill Clinton.

[1]

The film won the festival's Audience Award for Best Documentary Film.[2] The film jointly received the 2014

GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Documentary alongside Call Me Kuchu.

Plot

Bridegroom chronicles the story of Shane Bitney Crone and his same-sex partner Thomas Lee "Tom" Bridegroom,

who died in a tragic accident. After Bridegroom's death, Crone found himself cut off and deprived of any legal

protection. The film tells the story of their 6-year-long relationship, and the struggles Crone faced after Bridegroom's

death, including the family not allowing Crone to attend the funeral of his life partner.

Production

The film had its origins in *It Could Happen to You*, a short film Crone released on YouTube in 2012 to mark the first

anniversary of Bridegroom's death.[3] Following extensive promotion of the video through social networking,

Bloodworth-Thomason, who had once met the couple at a wedding in Palm Springs, California, contacted Crone

about expanding it into a full-length film.[4] Production began in the summer of 2012.

The film's budget of \$384,375 was raised on the crowd-funding site Kickstarter, outperforming its \$300,000 goal and becoming the most-funded documentary film project in the history of crowd-funding to date.*Bridegroom (film)* 2

Music

The songs used in the film include original music from the couple's friends; Colleen McMahon (solo and a duet with

Tom), Ben Rector (performed by Colleen and Shane), Allison Gray (with Tom on keyboard), several snippets of

Tom's own recordings, and a song from Adam Lambert who had met Shane after seeing "It Could Happen To You"

on YouTube.[5] Other original songs are performed by Benjy Gaither, Margo Rey, Nathan Young, and Lana

Ranahan. The soundtrack also includes popular music from Macklemore & Ryan Lewis and Fun.. The soundtrack is

listed on IMDb as follows:[6]

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Performer	Length
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1. "Same Love" (produced by Ryan Lewis) Ben Haggerty Macklemore & Ryan Lewis feat.

Mary Lambert

2. "When a Heart Breaks" Ben Rector Shane Bitney Crone & Colleen

McMahon

3. "Carry On" (produced by Jeff Bhasker) Nate Ruess, Andrew Dost, Jack Antonoff &

Jeff Bhasker

Fun.

4. "Outlaws of Love" (produced by Rune

Westberg)

Adam Lambert, Rune Westberg & BC Jean Adam Lambert

5. "The Dance" Tony Arata & Benjy Gaither Nathan Young

6. "Here With You" Benjy Gaither Benjy Gaither

7. "This Holiday Night" Margo Rey & Barrett Yeretsian Margo Rey

8. "You Belong to Me" Pee Wee King, Chilton Price, Redd Stewart

& Benjy Gaither

Margo Rey

9. "Beautiful Boy" Colleen McMahon Colleen McMahon

10. "The Christmas Song" (originally performed

by Mel Tormé)

Mel Tormé & Bob Wells Thomas Bridegroom & Colleen

McMahon

11. "La Mamma Morta" Umberto Giordano & Benjy Gaither Lana Ranahan

The original song "If I Fall" performed by Tom and Allison Gray in a scene in the film was never studio recorded,

but a video of a home performance of the full song was posted on YouTube in November 2013. (link [7]

on

YouTube)

Reception

Bridegroom received very positive reviews; on Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an 89% "fresh" rating.[8]
On

Metacritic, the film has an 85/100 rating, indicating "universal acclaim".[9]

Distribution

Bridegroom made its television premiere on October 27, 2013, on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The film was

released for instant streaming on Netflix and on DVD on November 19, 2013.

References

[1] "Bill Clinton Introduces 'Bridegroom,' Shane Bitney Crone's Documentary, At Tribeca Film Festival" (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

2013/04/24/bill-clinton-bridegroom-tribeca-_n_3146636.html). Huffington Post, April 24, 2013.

[2] "Tribeca: 'The Rocket', 'Bridegroom' Win Audience Awards"

(<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/>

tribeca-rocket-bridegroom-win-audience-447701). The Hollywood Reporter, April 27, 2013.

[3] "Gay Man Honors Boyfriend's Death With Poignant Video Noting Lack Of Rights Offered To Unwed Same-Sex Couples" (<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

2012/05/08/it-could-happen-to-you-gay-man-boyfriend-death_n_1499673.html). Huffington Post, May 8, 2012. Bridegroom (film) 3

[4] "Linda Bloodworth Thomason Directing Marriage-Equality Doc 'Bridegroom'"

(<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/>

linda-bloodworth-thomason-bridegroom-marriage-equality-361321). The Hollywood Reporter, August 13, 2012.

[5] www.4music.com (<http://www.4music.com/news/news/12056/Adam-Lambert-will-feature-on-Bridegroom-soundtrack>)

[6] Bridegroom Soundtrack on IMDb (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2357788/soundtrack>)

[7] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw4hw70zHic>

[8] Retrieved December 18, 2013

[9] Retrieved December 18, 2013

External links

- Official website (<http://bridegroommovie.com/>)
- Bridegroom (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2357788/>) at the Internet Movie Database
- Bridegroom (http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/bridegroom_2013/) at Rotten Tomatoes
- Bridegroom (<http://www.metacritic.com/movie/bridegroom>) at Metacritic
- Kickstarter campaign (<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/bridegroommovie/bridegroom-an-american-love-story?ref=watch>)

THOMAS LEE BRIDEGROOM

4/22/1982 – 5/7/2011

Tom was born and raised in Knox, Indiana and finished high school at the prestigious Culver Military Academy. Tom excelled at CMA, winning the Hobie Leadership award, which garnered him a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with the president. After graduating from CMA Cum Laude, Tom enrolled in Vassar College, where he trained in voice and piano.



Although he was succeeding in his academic career at Vassar, Tom made the decision to leave school early and pursue his true calling: a career in the entertainment industry. Tom co-wrote the powerful and meaningful song, "Lost" with his friend Paige Williams, which attracted attention from the music industry, as well as writing numerous other songs with many other talented musicians, and on his own.

This passion for music lead Tom to co-found with his partner Shane a popular online music blog and his music public relations business, Bridegroom and Bitney, which was and continues to grow and gain clients.

Tom also pursued ambitions of acting and being in front of the camera. Tom gained national recognition at the age of 23 when he was chosen as the Hot Boy Next Door for the popular magazine, Teen People, for the October 2005 issue. Moving to Los Angeles, Tom's talent and perseverance quickly got him an agent, and his acting career took off. Tom was cast in a national commercial for Nintendo and starred in an infomercial for Sensiclear. In 2007, Tom won a hosting job for MTV's reality show, "The X-Effect."

Tom once described himself as “a small town boy with both feet firmly planted on the ground.” The only thing small about Tom was that town he came from in Indiana. His heart was great in size, as was his ambition, passion and talent. For all that knew Tom, you know how truly blessed you were to have the honor of his incredible friendship.

SHANE BITNEY CRONE

Producer



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Born on December 19, 1985, in Kalispell, Montana, Shane Bitney Crone grew up with the nickname “Motor Mouth.” Now that name seems even more appropriate in light of his recent YouTube video, which went viral with almost three million hits. From a young age, Shane has used his considerable voice on behalf of good causes, inspiring others through his talent and actions. In Montana, he also regularly performed at the Missoula Children’s Theater International Performing Arts Camp. During high school, he was active in the community and was awarded Student of the Year for his leadership.

Shane worked part time to earn money so he could pursue his dream of moving to Los Angeles after graduation. Armed with this money and with all of his worldly belongings in the trunk of his car, Shane headed to California without a job, but with an abundance of ambition and willingness to work hard. He soon landed a position on Entertainment Tonight as a production assistant and was subsequently promoted to talent coordinator.

In 2005, Shane met his partner, Tom Bridegroom. Shane and Tom started a social media/public relations company, Bridegroom and Bitney, in 2008. In 2011, the devastating accident which took Tom's life, turned Shane's world upside down. Shane has now vowed to devote himself to the cause of marriage equality and is currently entertaining speaking requests from around the world. Shane partnered with "Designing Women" creator and director and producer of the critically acclaimed "Man from Hope," Linda Bloodworth Thomason, in order to make a documentary film about his and Tom's life together and what happened in the aftermath of Tom's death. The film will be entitled Bridegroom, An American Love Story.

[Read a letter from Shane Bitney Crone >>](#)

SHANE'S STATEMENT

A letter from Shane Bitney Crone:

I grew up with a large conservative Republican family, in a small conservative Montana town. I always knew I was different from my peers; those differences resulted in bullying, which led to extreme panic attacks, anxiety, and depression. It seemed as though life would never get better and I even contemplated suicide.

What helped me survive those painful years was knowing that I could one day escape to a place where I would be free to live however I want, and love whomever I choose.

I moved to Los Angeles just a few short months after graduating from high school. Not long after my arrival in Hollywood, I met the love of my life: Tom. He and I proceeded to build a life together, which included starting a business, buying a home, and adopting a dog.

We realized that in order to be fully committed to one another, we would need to officially come out to our respective families. Mine embraced our relationship, while Tom's parents blamed me for "turning" him gay, pulled a gun on him, and encouraged him to take his sinful sexuality to the grave with him.

In spite of this trauma, we continued to live our lives together happily. We vowed to marry when it would be legally recognized in our state, California. That possibility would come too late though.

On May 7th, 2011, just a few months after Tom gave me a promise ring, he tragically fell from our best friend's rooftop while taking photos. He didn't survive. To worsen an already tragic accident, his mother (whom I thought had finally started to support our relationship), took his body back to Indiana without notifying me of any memorial plans. Tom's family banned me from attending his funeral, and threatened physical harm should I come anywhere near them. I was never able to say a proper goodbye to the man I had loved for six years.

For the majority of my life I refused to stand up for what I believed in, and for who I was, out of fear and shame. Tom lived his life fully, openly, and lovingly, and he always encouraged me to embrace my flaws and strengths with pride.

On the one year anniversary of his death, I released a YouTube video that chronicled our relationship and the aftermath of his death. I wanted to help other couples, gay and straight, to prepare for the worst, and to enjoy the best. I wanted to teach others through my personal hardship and to inspire others with Tom's laughter, smile, and courage.

The video went viral and I was approached by writer/director Linda Bloodworth Thomason, who wanted to turn our story into a feature-length documentary. We eventually launched the most successful film crowd-funding campaign in the history of Kickstarter. Over 6,000 people from all over the world pledged money to help tell Tom's and my story.

I no longer live in a shadow of shame and embarrassment, and mostly because of Tom. I am proud of the love we shared, and the plans we made, and I want to help others carry out the dreams we never saw come true, even if it's just through the telling of my story in this film.

Bridegroom is not about revenge or politics. It is a film about love, forgiveness, and about finding the courage to be

who you are when the world says you shouldn't. This is my fairy tale, and Tom is, and always will be, my happy ending.