

## EJ Michels Music Video Release for “The Ugliest”



EJ Michels, photo credit: Taylor Yardley

The music video for “The Ugliest,” is the first single from EJ Michel’s forthcoming autobiographical EP “Matters of the Human Heart,” a raw confession of honesty and vulnerability after a devastating breakup. Directed by Victor Ridauro, the narrative video is based on EJ’s first romance and subsequent heartbreak as an openly gay man.

The song and video encapsulate the multitude of emotions that arise from the loss of an imagined future with the person we love, leaving behind only memories. Using this framework, the video travels through the relationship of two lovers, revisiting the turbulent times and lingering on the beautiful memories that made them fall in love—a healing experience of bittersweet loss and hope.

In creating the video, EJ and Victor use the universality of heartbreak to continue to normalize a real and beautiful relationship between two men. EJ's own experience as a gay man growing up, and still living in, a conservative community became the jumping off point to create this story.



Still from "The Ugliest" music video

Co-written and dual-released with his group, Foreign Figures, "The Ugliest" showcases EJ's soulful vocal stylings mixed effortlessly with an organic production to create an emotional soundscape of soft pop.

As the lead singer of Foreign Figures, EJ's music has had millions of streams with successful synch placements on MTV, Teen Mom, US Open, and other mainstream outlets. He has led his band in charismatic live performances all around Utah and the U.S., sharing the stage with the likes of X Ambassadors, Lukas Graham, Kesha, and American Authors.