

= Dan Povenmire =

Daniel Kingsley " Dan " Povenmire ( / ˈpʊvənmaɪr / ; born September 18 , 1963 ) is an American television director , writer , producer , storyboard artist , and voice actor associated with several animated television series , best known as the co - creator of the Disney animated series Phineas and Ferb in which he also voiced the show 's villain , Heinz Doofenshmirtz . Povenmire grew up in Mobile , Alabama , where he was a talented art student who spent summers outdoors and making movies . Povenmire attended the University of South Alabama before deciding to pursue a film career and transferring to the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts .

Povenmire has been a long - time contributor to the animation business , working on several different animated television series such as Hey Arnold ! , The Simpsons , Rocko 's Modern Life and SpongeBob SquarePants . He was a longtime director on the prime time series Family Guy , where he was nominated for an Annie Award in 2005 . He left the series to create Phineas and Ferb with Jeff " Swampy " Marsh . Povenmire has been nominated for several awards for his work on the show , including a BAFTA , an Annie , and an Emmy Award . As of 2015 , he and Marsh are currently producing a new series for Disney entitled Milo Murphy 's Law .

= = Early life = =

Povenmire was born in San Diego , California on September 18 , 1963 , and grew up in the city of Mobile , Alabama . A child prodigy , he began drawing at age two ; by the time he was ten , his work was displayed in local art shows . His first efforts in animation included a series of flip books that he produced in his school text books . As a child , Povenmire considered animator Chuck Jones his hero ; in a 2009 interview , he stated that " every drawing he [ Jones ] did was beautiful to look at and had so much energy in it " . Hayao Miyazaki was also an early influence .

= = Education = =

Povenmire received his secondary education at Shaw High School in Mobile . Initially , he attended the University of South Alabama , where he created his first popular comic strip , Life is a Fish , devoted to the life of Herman the goldfish and the college students he lives with . Povenmire also supported himself as a waiter and performer at a dinner theater . In 1985 , he transferred to the University of Southern California ( USC ) , planning to pursue a career in film .

Soon after arriving at USC , he pitched Life is a Fish to Mark Ordesky , the editor - in - chief of the Daily Trojan , the university newspaper . Ordesky first " basically brushed [ him ] off " , but , after viewing Povenmire 's portfolio , accepted the strip . Fish ran daily in the paper . Though the rapid pace left Povenmire afraid he was " running out of ideas " , he never missed a deadline and made \$ 14 000 a year through Fish merchandise , which included T - shirts , books , and calendars sold at the campus craft fair . The discipline of regular production also helped teach Povenmire to " represent something in the least amount of lines " .

= = Career = =

= = = Early works = = =

Povenmire left USC without finishing the degree requirements , and used the money from Fish merchandise to fund a short - lived career as a street artist . His first professional animation commission came on the Tommy Chong project Far Out Man , for which Povenmire produced two minutes of animation . By age 24 , Povenmire was freelancing on several animated television series , including Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles . In 1989 , he appeared in a small role as a band member in Adam Sandler 's first film , Going Overboard .

In the 1990s , Povenmire secured a job as a character layout animator on the hit animated series The Simpsons . His desk placed him opposite Jeffery Marsh , another up @-@ and @-@ coming animator . They shared similar tastes in humor and music , and later became colleagues on other projects .

Povenmire 's experience , from both previous industry work and from his own projects , earned him respect at The Simpsons . He worked on layout animation and collaborated on storyboard production for the series , recalling later that staff were handed pages of production notes and instructed to " Do the Brad Bird notes and any others that make sense . " He maintained a side interest in film , writing scripts and the screenplay for a low @-@ budget horror movie , Psycho Cop 2 . The movie 's producers offered Povenmire the opportunity to direct the film , but its terms required that he quit The Simpsons . Povenmire chose to stay with The Simpsons , which he enjoyed and considered a better fit with his future ambitions . Rif Coogan ended up directing the picture instead .

= = = Rocko 's Modern Life = = =

Work on The Simpsons involved an irregular schedule . The producers laid off the animation staff for two @-@ to @-@ three @-@ month periods , and rehired the staff later in the production cycle . During one of these layoffs , Povenmire found a temporary job on the series Rocko 's Modern Life , Nickelodeon 's first in @-@ house cartoon production . The show 's creator , television newcomer Joe Murray , hired Povenmire solely on the strength of his Life is a Fish comic strips , which proved he could both write and draw .

Though Povenmire started on Rocko simply to occupy his downtime from The Simpsons , he found the greater creative freedom he enjoyed on his temporary job compelling , and quit The Simpsons to work on Rocko full @-@ time . There , he reunited with Jeff Marsh , this time as a writing partner ; Marsh claimed the crew hoped Povenmire 's neatness would offset his own sloppy storyboarding . The pair developed a distinctive style characterized by characteristic musical numbers and chase scenes . Povenmire and Marsh won an Environmental Achievement Award for a 1996 Rocko episode they had written .

= = = Family Guy = = =

Povenmire later became a director on Family Guy , starting with the season two episode , " Road to Rhode Island " . Creator Seth MacFarlane granted Povenmire substantial creative freedom . Povenmire recalled that MacFarlane would tell him " We 've got two minutes to fill . Give me some visual gags . Do whatever you want . I trust you . " Povenmire praised MacFarlane 's management style for letting him " have [ ... ] fun . " Povenmire brought realism and material from his own experiences to the visual direction of Family Guy . For " One if By Clam , Two if By Sea " ( August 1 , 2001 ) , several characters demonstrate Fosse @-@ like moves in prison . To correctly depict the moves , Povenmire asked color artist Cynthia MacIntosh , who had been a professional dancer , to strike poses so he could properly illustrate the sequence . In the episode " To Love and Die in Dixie " ( November 15 , 2001 ) , Povenmire drew on his childhood in the Deep South to create and sequence a background scene in which the redneck character nonchalantly kicks a corpse into the nearby river .

" Brian Wallows and Peter 's Swallows " ( January 17 , 2002 ) , a Family Guy episode which Povenmire directed , won the Emmy Award for Best Song . Creator MacFarlane , the recipient of the award , noted that Povenmire deserved to have received the award for the contribution the visuals made to the episode 's win . Povenmire jokingly responded " That 's a nice sentiment and all , but did he offer to give me his ? No ! And it 's not like he doesn 't already have two of his own just sitting in his house ! " Povenmire was nominated for an Annie Award for Directing in an Animated Television Production for the episode " PTV " ( November 6 , 2005 ) but lost out to a fellow Family Guy director Peter Shin , who had directed the episode " North By North Quahog " . Povenmire and several others were also nominated for their work on " PTV " in the Outstanding Animated Program (

for Programming Less Than One Hour ) category at the Primetime Emmy Awards . Povenmire also received the same nomination for " Road to Rhode Island . "

While directing for Family Guy , Povenmire was offered a job as storyboard director of the series SpongeBob SquarePants . He wrote various musical numbers for the series , including " The Campfire Song Song " in " The Camping Episode " ( April 3 , 2004 ) .

= = = Phineas and Ferb = = =

In 1993 , Povenmire and Marsh conceived the series Phineas and Ferb , based on their similar experiences of childhood summers spent outdoors . Povenmire spent 14 ? 16 years pitching Phineas and Ferb to several networks . Most rejected it as unfeasible for the complexity of its plots , but Povenmire persevered , later observing " It was really the show we wanted to see : if this was on the air , I 'd watch it , and I don 't always feel that about every show I work on . " Even the Walt Disney Company initially rejected Povenmire 's pitch , but asked to keep the proposal packet : " Usually that means they throw it in the trash later , " Povenmire recalled . Eventually Disney called Povenmire back with an acceptance , on the condition that he would produce an 11 @-@ minute pilot . He called Marsh , who was living in England , to ask him if he would like to work on the pilot ; Marsh accepted immediately and moved back to the United States .

Instead of a conventional script , the pair pitched the pilot by recording reels of its storyboard , which Povenmire then mixed and dubbed to produce action and vocals . The network approved the show for a 26 @-@ episode season . Povenmire left Family Guy to create the series .

Povenmire and Marsh wanted to incorporate into Phineas and Ferb the kind of humor they had developed in their work on Rocko 's Modern Life . They included action sequences and , with Disney 's encouragement , featured musical numbers in every episode subsequent to " Flop Starz " . Povenmire described the songs as his and Marsh 's " jab at immortality " , but the pair have earned two Emmy nominations for Phineas and Ferb songs to @-@ date . A third Emmy nomination , for the episode " The Monster of Phineas @-@ n @-@ Ferbenstein " ( 2009 ) , pitted the show against SpongeBob SquarePants , although neither nominee received the award due to a technicality . In 2010 , Povenmire was nominated amongst several other Phineas and Ferb crew members for the Daytime Emmy Award for both " Outstanding Writing in Animation " and " Outstanding Original Song ? Children ? s and Animation " for their work on the show , winning for " Outstanding Writing in Animation " .

The distinctive style of the animation legend Tex Avery influenced the show 's artistic look . Like Avery , Povermire employed geometric shapes to build both the characters and the background . The style developed almost accidentally , with Povenmire 's first sketch of title character , Phineas Flynn , which he produced while eating dinner with his family in a restaurant in South Pasadena , California . He doodled a triangle @-@ shaped child on the butcher paper covering the table . He was so taken with sketch he tore it out , kept it , and used it as the prototype for Phineas and as the stylistic blueprint for the entire show .

= = = Musical endeavors = = =

During his college years , Povenmire had performed with a band that played at clubs and bars across Los Angeles , California . His current band , Keep Left , releases albums through Arizona University Recordings . Their second CD , Letters from Fielding , became available for download on aurec.com during 2004 . They have an official website maintained and updated by artist Larry Stone . A 2004 email exchange about the website between Stone and Povenmire resulted in a " clever and twisted " series of comic strips drawn by the two , eventually moved to the website Badmouth .

= = Filmography = =

= = = Films = = =

== Television ==