

= Homicide : Life on the Street (season 2) =

The second season of Homicide : Life on the Street , an American police procedural drama television series , originally aired in the United States between January 6 and January 27 , 1994 . Due to low Nielsen ratings during the first season , NBC executives decided to order only a four @-@ episode season , after which they would evaluate the ratings and decide whether to renew the show . Homicide was moved to a new timeslot of Thursdays at 10 p.m. EST , temporarily replacing the legal drama L.A. Law . NBC requested several changes from the series , including fewer episode subplots and less camera movements and jump cuts .

The entire Homicide cast returned for the second season . The uncertainty over Homicide 's future was stressful for the cast and crew , and the logistics of scheduling the filming around the actors ' schedules was difficult . Daniel Baldwin publicly criticized NBC Entertainment president Warren Littlefield over the matter , and it was initially reported Ned Beatty would not return at all . The second season was the last to include original cast member Jon Polito , who was reportedly dismissed because NBC officials were unhappy with his physical appearance . Polito was publicly critical of the show after his dismissal .

The second season marked the debut of Jean de Segonzac as director of photography and Chris Terjesen as music coordinator . The season premiere , " Bop Gun " , was the last of the four episodes filmed , but it was the first to be broadcast due to a guest appearance by Robin Williams , which NBC hoped would lead to improved ratings . " Bop Gun " differed from other Homicide episodes because it focused entirely on one story : the murder of a tourist and its impact on her husband , played by Williams . The episodes " See No Evil " and " Black and Blue " featured a suspected police shooting , which was based on a real life incident in David Simon 's book Homicide : A Year on the Killing Streets .

In addition to Williams , several actors made guest appearances throughout the second season , including Julianna Margulies , Wilford Brimley , Isaiah Washington , Adrienne Shelly and a 13 @-@ year @-@ old Jake Gyllenhaal . Homicide received generally positive reviews during the season , and the show received one Emmy nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for Williams . The " Bop Gun " script won a Writers Guild of America Award . Homicide was often compared to the ABC police drama series NYPD Blue , which Baldwin called " the knockoff of Homicide " . While ratings improved during the second season , NBC still demanded further changes to the show before committing to a third season . The first and second seasons of Homicide were released together in a four @-@ DVD box @-@ set on May 27 , 2003 .

= = Episodes = =

= = Development = =

= = = Renewal = = =

Nielsen ratings for Homicide : Life on the Street had gradually declined throughout the first season , leaving the show at high risk of cancellation by the time the season concluded . NBC executives asked for several refinements ? including fewer episode subplots and less camera movements and jump cuts ? before approving a second season . Executive producer Tom Fontana said he was willing " to do anything to keep NBC from forgetting us " , although executive producer Barry Levinson said the show would maintain its realistic visual style , claiming , " We want a camera that 's almost a participant in the show . " Homicide was ultimately renewed , but the producers slightly toned down the show 's bleak visual style and hand @-@ held photography motif , and focused more strongly on single stories rather than multiple subplots . Fontana said , " We were experimenting with our first nine episodes . Whenever you try something new , you tend to err on the side of breaking ground . But we 'd rather have more people watching , so the colors and lighting are

slightly brighter , and the camera movements are not as jarring . " However , both Levinson and Fontana insisted the changes were not entirely due to network pressure , but rather were evolutionary developments for the series .

NBC ordered a four @-@ episode second season , which would be broadcast in January 1994 as a mid @-@ year replacement . A decision about whether to renew the show for a third season would then be made based on how those four episodes performed in the ratings . David P. Kalat , author of *Homicide : Life on the Street ? The Unofficial Companion* , credited NBC Entertainment president Warren Littlefield with that move , although Levinson claimed NBC West Coast president Don Ohlmeyer was behind the decision . Ohlmeyer said he believed a better timeslot , less dense stories and less hand @-@ held photography would attract more viewers and help the show succeed better : " For it to succeed long @-@ term , there 's a humanity that needs to be brought to the characters . There 's more here than there was last year . " Littlefield said of *Homicide* , " It 's a show we think has tremendous potential that was not fully realized in the first nine episodes . And that 's why we want to make more . "

Homicide was moved from its previous timeslot of Wednesdays at 9 p.m. EST to a new time on Thursdays at 10 p.m. Levinson and the other series producers considered this an extremely positive move for the show , as *Homicide* suffered greatly in the ratings on Wednesdays due to competition from the highly rated ABC comedy block featuring *Home Improvement* and *Coach* . Even during the first season , Levinson often said the series was truly designed for a 10 p.m. timeslot . *Homicide* took the timeslot previously held by the legal drama *L.A. Law* , which was placed on a six @-@ week hiatus from December 23 until early February . With some critics claiming *L.A. Law* had declined in quality , the hiatus led to speculation that it would be canceled and *Homicide* would replace it . This led to some tension during an NBC reception when *L.A. Law* star Corbin Bernsen approached *Homicide* actor Richard Belzer and shouted expletives at him , yelling , " You stole our timeslot ! "

The producers of *Homicide* said the decision to evaluate the series after a four @-@ episode season placed tremendous pressure on the staff of the show . Fontana said one @-@ hour dramas need time to fully develop and allow audiences to become familiar with the characters . Fontana expressed frustration with NBC in some news interviews , claiming the networks seemed to lack the courage to either cancel or renew it : " They will run it in a 10 p.m. time period for a month and then they 'll kiss us goodbye I 'm used to this kind of treatment from NBC . I 'm a little surprised they 'd treat Barry Levinson the same way they 'd treat me . " In other interviews , however , Fontana said he saw the decision as a sign of support : " This is not just a casual action on NBC 's part . It 's a real statement to me that we have a possibility to return . " Levinson said he believed " four shots are better than nothing " , adding :

" What I learned is that it is very hard for a network to make a real commitment . A hit @-@ and @-@ run sensibility is prevalent In all fairness to NBC , this is a tougher kind of show than any other show they carry . It is different , and no one is going to endorse different in this world , no one celebrates different . "

== = Crew == =

Homicide was produced by Levinson 's company Baltimore Pictures , which had partnered with Reeves Entertainment during the first season . However , Reeves Entertainment went out of business after the first season concluded , so NBC bought into the show and formally became a co @-@ producer , which gave the network more latitude to demand creative changes . The second season marked the debut of Jean de Segonzac as director of photography . He replaced Wayne Ewing , who Levinson felt was too inexperienced and did not trust with the responsibility of managing the show 's cinematography . Among Segonzac 's film credits was *Laws of Gravity* (1992) , which was directed by Nick Gomez , who directed the *Homicide* first season episode " Son of a Gun " .

Season premiere " Bop Gun " was directed by Stephen Gyllenhaal , a feature director then @-@ best known for such films as *Waterland* (1992) and *A Dangerous Woman* (1993) . Chris Menaul

directed the back @-@ to @-@ back episodes " See No Evil " and " Black and Blue " , while the season finale , " A Many Splendored Thing " , was directed by John McNaughton , who previously directed Homicide star Belzer in the film Mad Dog and Glory (1993) . The second season included much of the same crew as the first : in addition to executive producers Levinson and Fontana , Jim Finnerty returned as supervising producer , Debbie Sarjeant worked as associate supervisor and screenwriter James Yoshimura became story editor starting with the second season , with Bonnie Mark as a staff writer and Chris Friel as a script supervisor . Other crew included Cindy Mollo as editor , Vincent Peranio as production designer , Susan Kessel as set decorator , Roland Berman as costume designer , Ivan Fonseca as post @-@ production coordinator , Bruce Litkey as sound mixer and Louis DiGiaimo and Pat Moran as casting directors . Ted Zachary and Allan Chafin worked as the executives in charge of production .

= = = Cast = = =

Almost the entire original cast from season one returned for the second season , including Daniel Baldwin , Ned Beatty , Richard Belzer , Andre Braugher , Clark Johnson , Yaphet Kotto , Melissa Leo , Jon Polito and Kyle Secor . The only permanent cast member not to return was Wendy Hughes , who previously played medical examiner Carol Blythe ; her absence was never explained on @-@ screen . While the rest of the cast was contractually obliged to return , many of them had offers for other films , television shows or plays , and the logistics of arranging their schedules so all of them could return for the show was difficult . In an interview , Fontana claimed the cast was contractually entitled to be paid for 13 episodes but they all agreed to take less money and come back for the shortened @-@ season . The uncertainty over whether Homicide would be renewed or not created a great deal of stress for some cast members . Polito said of the feeling , " Where is limbo ? It 's in Baltimore . " Baldwin in particular expressed frustration with NBC for failing to renew the show for a full season and said he feared the uncertainty could hurt his film career :

" For two years now , I 've been walking around thinking , ' Why did I do this ? Why did I subject myself to this nonsense ? ' I will never , ever do another series . Ever . Ever . Ever . Ever . There is no justice in television Where 's the confidence ? Why aren 't I here talking about being picked up for 22 episodes ? I want to say to Warren Littlefield : Can you read ? Can you read ? I 've never seen this kind of critical response to a show before . "

Likewise , Beatty said he enjoyed the actual filming of the episodes but hated the television business end of it , claiming , " I can 't think of anything I would less rather do than television at this moment . " He said the process left him " pretty much burnt " and said his enthusiasm for the show had " eroded as time goes on " . It was initially reported that Beatty would not return for the second Homicide season at all because he had accepted a starring role in The Boys , a CBS comedy series also featuring Christopher Meloni . Polito said he did not believe Beatty 's departure would hurt the show because of the ensemble nature of the cast : " I love Ned 's work , but the show won 't fall apart because of one character . " Beatty ended up appearing in both shows , and The Boys was canceled after six episodes .

Although Belzer said he and the rest of the cast returned to filming with " guarded emotions " , he credited his role as John Munch with giving him credibility as an actor . While he previously had to vigorously pursue roles , he was receiving unsolicited offers by the time of the second season , including a recurring role in the ABC television series Lois & Clark : The New Adventures of Superman . Polito , however , was terminated from the cast after the second season ended , reportedly because NBC officials were unhappy with his weight and physical appearance and did not believe he appealed to audiences . After his dismissal , Polito became publicly critical of the direction Homicide had recently taken , saying it changed to a " parody of itself " and claiming he had repeatedly voiced problems with the show 's recent scripts to Fontana and Chris Menaul . Polito said :

" It would have killed me to come back . The show went from art to mediocrity . I 'm relieved that they 've freed me legally . I didn 't want to go back to another six months of indecision and hurt . I 'm shocked that the other actors re @-@ signed The brilliance of the show under Levinson was lost

this season . It 's like watching the sinking of the Titanic . The problem is that the iceberg is the guys who built the ship ? the producers . You can never trust producers . They would have said to van Gogh : ' Nice painting . A little lighter on the colors and we can sell it . ' "

Several notable actors made guest appearances throughout the second season of Homicide . Robin Williams appeared in " Bop Gun " as Robert Ellison , the husband of a slain woman tourist . Levinson previously directed Williams in the films Good Morning , Vietnam (1987) and Toys (1992) . Although Williams was primarily known for his comedic work , the Homicide producers and Williams himself consciously decided to remain true to the original script , rejecting the idea of adding humor or jokes to the episode . " Bop Gun " also featured a 13 @-@ year @-@ old Jake Gyllenhaal , son of the episode 's director Stephen , in one of his earliest acting performances ; he played Matt , the young son of Robert Ellison . Wilford Brimley portrayed the bed @-@ ridden and suicidal Harry Prentice in " See No Evil " , Isaiah Washington played murder suspect Lane Staily in " Black and Blue " , and Adrienne Shelly portrayed S & M fashion store owner Tanya Quinn in " A Many Splendored Thing " . Julianna Margulies appeared in the last two episodes of the season as Linda , a waitress who starts dating Bolander . Fontana was so impressed with Margulies that he offered her a recurring role on Homicide , but she turned it down in favor of the medical drama series ER .

= = Production = =

= = = Writing = = =

By the time the first season ended , four additional scripts for the second season had already been written , but before approving the second season , NBC asked for refinements in both the visual style and the scripts . From a screenwriting perspective , NBC asked that the scripts place more emphasis on single storylines , rather than multiple subplots ; during the first season , some episodes included as many as four separate storylines . The season premiere , " Bop Gun " , was the first Homicide episode to revolve entirely around a single plot : the murder of a tourist and its aftermath . Fontana said by focusing on one story , he believed it allows the show to tell that story better , adding , " In some places , there wasn 't enough time for the story . The " Bop Gun " script also differed from previous Homicide episodes by focusing more strongly on a murder victim , rather than on the detectives . The other three episodes of the season continued to focus on multiple stories , but switched from four different subplots to three .

" Bop Gun " was written by David Mills and David Simon , the later of whom wrote the 1991 non @-@ fiction book Homicide : A Year on the Killing Streets , from which the television series was adapted . It was the first television script written by Mills , who previously worked as a reporter and became friends with Simon while studying journalism at the University of Maryland , College Park . Writing the script inspired Mills to quit journalism and start writing for television full @-@ time . Simon felt the script 's dialogue was faithful to reality , especially the detectives ' use of dark humor as a coping mechanism for dealing with the horrors of the homicide unit . This was particularly embodied by a scene in which the murdered tourist 's husband becomes angry after overhearing detectives talk about how much overtime they would get from the case , which Simon claimed was a conversation real @-@ life detectives would really have .

" See No Evil " was written by series creator Paul Attanasio , who had not penned a Homicide script since the series premiere " Gone for Goode " . Attanasio deliberately wrote the " See No Evil " script so that it would be morally questionable whether the police handling of both main subplots ? the assisted suicide and the suspected police shooting ? were done in an ethically correct way . " Black and Blue " was written by James Yoshimura , who continued working on Homicide throughout the entire life of the show , but considered that episode his favorite script . A story arc in " See No Evil " and " Black and Blue " featured Pembleton investigating a suspected police @-@ related shooting . This was based on a real @-@ life 1988 shooting and subsequent investigation by Baltimore Police Department Detective Donald Worden featured in David Simon 's book Homicide : A Year on the

Killing Streets . Several members of the Baltimore Police Department publicly criticized Homicide for its negative portrayal of the police in the storyline , and 22 detectives wrote a formal letter of protest to Levinson over the matter .

" A Many Splendored Thing " was written by Noel Behn , who became consulting producer with the series . That episode featured a subplot about a man who killed another man over a pen , which was inspired by a real @-@ life murder in Anne Arundel County , Maryland , in which a 23 @-@ year @-@ old man shot another man 10 times in a doughnut shop when the victim refused to sell the shooter his pen . Since NBC had not decided on whether to renew Homicide until after the four episodes aired , the screenwriters did not start working on any scripts for the third season until after the second season concluded . As a result , once NBC was committed to renewal , the scripts had to be written later and the Homicide producers were not able to turn around new shows until the fall . Additionally , Fontana was working on other projects , including Philly Heat , an ABC miniseries about members of the Philadelphia Fire Department . Some media outlets criticized NBC for not commissioning Fontana and Levinson to write back @-@ up scripts , which prevented Homicide from starting earlier once the show was renewed . Alan Pergament of The Buffalo News wrote , " Understandably , Fontana didn 't sit by idly and wait for NBC to make its decision on Homicide . "

= = = Filming = = =

The four second season episodes were filmed during the summer of 1993 . The last of them , " Bop Gun " , was filmed in late September 1993 , with Fontana just having returned from accepting an Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for the script of first season episode " Three Men and Adena " . Like the first season , they were filmed on location in Baltimore . Levinson was not present for the filming and development of the episodes because he was in Los Angeles shooting Jimmy Hollywood (1994) , a comedy film starring Joe Pesci and Christian Slater . Fontana said Levinson remained involved in the development of scripts and the production of the shows .

Among the visual changes during Homicide 's second season were brighter colors . While colorist Drexel Williams previously drained footage of color value to create a gritty style , cinematographer Jean de Segonzac directed Williams to make the colors less muted and more lively . Segonzac also sought a more restrained visual style , as he believed the previous cinematographer Wayne Ewing tended to " get a little too wild , and someone could complain they got a little dizzy " . Levinson praised what he described as a subtler and more effective style under Segonzac . " Bop Gun " was originally meant to serve as the second season finale , but NBC decided to make it the season premiere with the hopes of getting increased ratings from Williams ' guest appearance . The scenes with Williams were filmed over three days ; Fontana said of the shooting , " [Williams] worked like a dog . It was quite a special event for all of us . It 's very intense . "

= = = Music = = =

Chris Tergesen became music coordinator during the second season , and more music is featured than in the previous episodes as a result . The first scene of " Bop Gun " , for example , featured the song " Killer " by Seal and Adamski over a brief montage of images just before a murder took place . In that same episode , the Buddy Guy blues song " Feels Like Rain " plays just after Howard speaks with a suspect in jail . Other songs were integrated into the show itself : one suspect listens to the Public Enemy song " Gett off My Back " on headphones just before he was arrested . Various songs are featured in other second season episodes , including the Gerry Goffin and Carole King song " Up on the Roof " in " Black and Blue " , and the Soul Asylum song " Whoa " and Donna Summer song " Bad Girls " in " A Many Splendored Thing " . " Black and Blue " ended with Bolander and Linda , on cello and violin respectively , performing a movement of " Passacaglia " , a classical music piece composed by George Frideric Handel . Cellist Zuill Bailey served as a body double for Beatty in the scenes with Bolander playing cello .

= = Reception = =

== Reviews ==

The second season received generally positive reviews . " Bop Gun " was particularly acclaimed ; it was named one of the ten best episodes of the series by The Baltimore Sun , and the Star Tribune called Williams ' performance one of the ten best guest star moments in television history . The performance of Andre Braugher was also particularly praised , especially for his scene in " Black and Blue " , in which Pembleton persuades a suspect to confess to a murder he did not commit . Gail Pennington of the St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch said the second season was an improvement over the first , which she said was excellent but " tended to demand an awful lot from viewers " . Pennington said the toned down visual style and stronger emphasis on single stories better focused the show , adding : " Homicide is great TV , and NBC believes in it enough to give it what may be the network 's best time slot . " Bob Langford of The News & Observer called Homicide " absolutely brilliant " and praised it for focusing not on the crimes but on the effects of it , as well as the realistic themes regarding race , such as concerns in " Bop Gun " that the murder would deter white tourists from visiting Baltimore . Langford said it was occasionally preachy , but said , " Sometimes , a good sermon is what we need . Amazing that one this powerful can come from a TV show . "

Rick Kogan , television critic with the Chicago Tribune , called the show " wholly original " and an example of how good television entertainment can be . He praised the ensemble cast and interesting characters , and said the show would be renewed " if there 's any justice in TV " . Ray Richmond of the Los Angeles Daily News praised NBC for giving Homicide a second chance , comparing it to the days when NBC stuck with the comedy series Cheers even though it ranked last in the ratings during its first season . Richmond said of Homicide : " This is also one of the final opportunities to see a television network stick with a struggling show for no better reason than it deserves to be stuck with . In the bottom line @-@ driven 1990s , that 's become as rare as quality itself . " Steven Cole Smith with the Fort Worth Star @-@ Telegram said of the evaluation period during Homicide 's second season : " If you don 't watch it , you may lose your right to complain that there 's never anything good on TV . " He called it " a gritty , atmospheric police series " and complimented it for showing not only gratuitous violence but the consequences of it .

Robert Bianco of the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette praised the show and said the decision to focus on fewer subplots might help . Bianco said , " Let 's hope the changes work , because Homicide is too good to lose , and its vision of civilization is too troubling to shunt aside . " The Washington Post television reviewer Tom Shales called Homicide " achingly , even painfully , brilliant . The best cop show I have ever seen . " David Zurawik of The Baltimore Sun called it the best police drama ever made for television besides Hill Street Blues . Baltimore Sun reporter David Bianculli praised the show 's writers for being willing to place their characters in ethically questionable positions , adding : " Please watch this series ; it 's so good , I don 't mind pleading . " Tom Jicha of South Florida Sun @-@ Sentinel called it " an hour about as fine as there is on the tube " with great writing and camera @-@ work . Jicha said , " It would be a senseless act of violence against superb TV for those who claim to appreciate fine drama to kill this show by turning the dial . " Hal Boedeker , television critic with The Miami Herald , strongly praised the series , particularly " Bop Gun " , which he called " the highest order for network TV " . Boedeker called the writing , direction and acting " first @-@ rate " and declared Homicide the better choice over NYPD Blue because it did not resort to gimmicks like the nudity featured in the latter show .

== NYPD Blue ==

The second season of Homicide drew several comparisons to NYPD Blue , an ABC police drama series that had debuted in September 1993 . It received a large amount of publicity and better ratings than Homicide , which some reviewers attributed to the violence and nudity featured in the show . Like Homicide , NYPD Blue featured an ensemble cast and intertwined subplots , and commentators suggested its success may have encouraged NBC to support Homicide . Levinson

said he was not deterred by comparisons to NYPD Blue because Homicide debuted before that series . In a news article , Fontana quoted a friend who described NYPD Blue as " the television version of Homicide " . Baldwin was even more critical of the show , and said in an interview : " The ultimate compliment that can ever be paid [is] to be mimicked by someone else . So , thank you , NYPD Blue , because it 's the knockoff of Homicide . " NYPD Blue co @-@ creator Steven Bochco took exception to that characterization , saying he believed his reputation and experience in television proved he was capable of conceiving his own material . Bochco said : I don 't think it 's a knock @-@ off . It was conceived as its own show . I wish Homicide the best ? and they should be so lucky as to do as well as we 're doing right now . "

Pete Schulberg of The Oregonian wrote , " Forget all the commotion about NYPD Blue . Homicide delivers without the lewd language and skin shots . It depicts violence in a most compelling way : You don 't see it . You just feel it . " Bob Wisehart of The Sacramento Bee said , " The bottom line is that while NYPD Blue is a fine show ? it was on my 10 @-@ best list for 1993 ? Homicide is better . There 's been nothing like it since the heyday of Hill Street Blues . " Elaine Liner , television critic with the Corpus Christi Caller @-@ Times , who called Homicide " as rewarding an hour of serious , quality television as you could ask for " , praised it for highlighting quality writing rather than gimmicks like the nudity from NYPD Blue , and praised it for fleshing out not only the detectives and victims , but the suspects too , like in " Bop Gun " . Ed Siegel of The Boston Globe wrote , " If [the nudity] is what it took to get you to watch NYPD Blue and you decided to stay because it was grittier , better written , directed and acted than any other drama on TV , be advised that Homicide is so far superior to NYPD Blue in all those categories that if you 're not [watching it] , you 're missing the best hour of episodic television since Hill Street Blues and St. Elsewhere left the air . "

= = = Ratings = = =

NBC heavily advertised the second season , especially the guest appearance by Williams in the season premiere , " Bop Gun " . Levinson , Baldwin , Belzer and Fontana all participated in multiple media interviews about the show . " Bop Gun " was seen by 16 @.@ 3 million viewers , a higher @-@ than @-@ usual Homicide : Life on the Street rating in large part to interest in Williams ' appearance . It received a 17 @.@ 3 Nielsen rating and a 28 share , the highest rating for a 10 p.m. drama series since January 1992 . The rating placed Homicide among the top ten network television Nielsen ratings for the week , and outperformed the ratings of L.A. Law , which normally filled the 10 p.m. Thursday timeslot . Warren Littlefield said the ratings " far exceeded expectations " , and said he expected the series to return for a third season if the viewership remained strong . Littlefield said of the Homicide ratings :

" These are outstanding numbers for a dramatic television series . If we can keep a reasonable level of audience , we believe in the work , we believe in the creative team we think we have , perhaps the most outstanding ensemble cast in all of television . We just would like to see continued signs of life . "

The other three episodes of the season did not match the viewership of " Bop Gun " , but they were nevertheless considered strong ratings for the show , better than past Homicide episodes and the average rating for L.A. Law . Homicide 's improved ratings in the Thursday night timeslot fueled speculation that L.A. Law might be canceled and Homicide would take its place . Warren Littlefield denied such claims , believing the success of one series did not necessarily have to mean the cancellation of the other . Despite Homicide 's improvement in the ratings , NBC did not immediately commit to a third season until the producers agreed to even more changes , including more prominent guest stars , more women in the cast and more life @-@ affirming storylines . Outgoing cast member Polito publicly decried these changes , claiming the show was going to change from a drama into a " soap opera " .

To cut down on costs , the network also pressured Levinson to relocate filming to California rather than Baltimore , which would reduce costs for travel , lodging and meals . Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer sent a telegram to Levinson encouraging him to remain in the city : " I wanted you to know that we are proud of having this exceptional series shot in your native state and

stand ready to help toward a positive decision for additional production of the series . " Levinson and Fontana considered leaving Baltimore not only for the cost savings , but also because of the letters of outrage by the city 's detectives over " See No Evil , " as well as a report in the Associated Press that the show was giving Baltimore a bad image by drawing attention to its murder rate . Ultimately , however , Levinson decided to remain in Baltimore . On February 15 , 1994 , the day the options of the cast contracts expired , NBC decided at midnight to sign for a third season , but ordered only 13 episodes instead of a full 22 @-@ episode season , opting to wait and see how the ratings performed before committing to the final nine .

= = = Awards = = =

Robin Williams received an Emmy Award nomination for Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his role in " Bop Gun " . It was the only Emmy nomination Homicide : Life on the Street received in the 46th Primetime Emmy Awards ; the series received four nominations the previous year . Williams lost the Emmy to Richard Kiley for his performance in the CBS drama series Picket Fences . " Bop Gun " won a Writers Guild of America Award for Best Screenplay of an Episodic Drama . It defeated competing episodes of Northern Exposure and NYPD Blue , as well as another second season Homicide episode , " A Many Splendored Thing " .

= = DVD release = =

The first and second seasons of Homicide were released together in a four @-@ DVD box @-@ set " Homicide : Life on the Street : The Complete Seasons 1 & 2 " , which was released by A & E Home Video on May 27 , 2003 for \$ 69 @.@ 95 . The set included an audio commentary by Levinson and Fontana for the first season premiere , " Gone for Goode " , as well as a collection of the commercials that advertised the episode during the Super Bowl .