

= The Problem Solverz =

The Problem Solverz is an American animated television series that aired on Cartoon Network . Created by Ben Jones , it follows Alfe , Horace , and Roba , a group of detectives in their troubled town , Farboro . The aforementioned characters were designed while Jones attended college in the 1990s ; he later founded the art collective Paper Rad with Jessica and Jacob Ciocchi . The characters were featured in Jones ' and the collective 's animations and comics before the creator pitched a pilot to Adult Swim featuring the trio . The network 's executives referred Jones to Cartoon Network , who commissioned a series featuring the same characters . The series was produced in Adobe Flash , with around fifteen animators employed at Cartoon Network Studios and the co @-@ production of Mirari Films .

The Problem Solverz was first aired on April 4 , 2011 . The first season consisted of eighteen episodes , concluding on September 29 , 2011 . A second and final season was released exclusively on Netflix in 2013 . The series has received mixed to negative reviews , with writers of entertainment @-@ related publications criticizing the visual style and writing , while art @-@ related publications gave praise to Jones ' creativity .

= = Plot = =

The series follows the eponymous detectives Alfe (Ben Jones) , Horace (Kyle Kaplan) , and Roba (also Jones) . The trio take up solving , and sometimes creating , the numerous problems that plague their town , Farboro . To their aid is Tux Dog (John DiMaggio) , an extremely wealthy dog who helps the Solverz in some of their cases but is just as often the source of their problems .

Alfe (pronounced Alfé) is a large , fluffy , man ? dog ? anteater found and raised by Horace when both was young . He loves devouring large quantities of food , especially pizza , and acts impulsively during missions . Roba , Horace 's twin brother and cyborg , is the smartest member of the group , but he suffers from insecurity and anxiety . Horace is the calm and collected leader of the team , usually applying common sense with his detective work and caring after Alfe .

= = Development = =

= = = Conception = = =

Growing up in Pittsburgh , creator Ben Jones had an appreciation for comics and animation . His father 's Macintosh computer served as a vehicle for Jones to create art and influenced his later visual style . Jones attended the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in the mid @-@ 1990s , where he became motivated to launch a project he could adapt to different media . This impetus manifested itself in the characters Alfe , Horace , and Roba . Tux Dog , another principal character , was designed while Jones was in primary school . After his graduation , Jones formed the art collective Paper Rad with Jessica and Jacob Ciocchi in 2000 . The collective moved that year to Providence , Rhode Island , to participate in the Fort Thunder music venue . After the venue 's closure in 2001 , Jones released animations on the Web using Adobe Flash , with some featuring Alfe .

Paper Rad later produced animations with the premise of The Problem Solverz but with the three principal characters absent . The collective 's 2006 direct @-@ to @-@ DVD release Trash Talking features a segment called " Gone Cabin Carzy " in which Alfe , Horace , and Roba appear . In tandem with these experiments , Jones worked as a television animator on Yo Gabba Gabba ! and Wonder Showzen . The year of the DVD 's release , Jones talked to Nick Weidendfeld , then an executive producer at Adult Swim , about an idea for a series of his own . The result was Neon Knome , a pilot produced by PFFR and Williams Street , released on Adult Swim 's website as part of a development contest sponsored by Burger King . The network 's executives later referred Jones to Cartoon Network , believing his creativity would fit better there . Jones agreed to do business with

Cartoon Network on the condition that Alfe be a character on The Problem Solverz .

= = = Production = = =

Eric Pringle , a veteran of 2D digital animation , was employed as animation director , providing Jones with much technical assistance . Pringle 's colleagues from Foster 's Home for Imaginary Friends , another Cartoon Network production , comprised a team of around fifteen full @-@ time animators at the network 's studio , all working on Apple computers . Greg Miller was hired as supervising director , Martin Cendreda as technical director , and John Pham with Jon Vermilyea as character designers . Miller is the creator of Whatever Happened to ... Robot Jones ? , another series on the network . Vermilyea worked also as a character designer on the network 's series Adventure Time , while Cendreda , Pham , and Jones all contributed to the anthology comic book Kramers Ergot . Michael Yank was employed as a writer for most episodes , with Mirari Films ' CEO Eric Kaplan supervising the creation of scripts .

The series was noted for its visual style employing highly saturated colors and varying shapes . Jones was inspired by the limited @-@ animated series Roger Ramjet and The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show , which he felt employed good character design , cohesiveness , jokes , and timing . He credited The Problem Solverz as the first seamless use of Flash for television animation , with conceptualization and the end result occurring in the same program . Writing was the longest aspect of production , taking up to several months for the crew to conceive the story and draft a script . Animation was comparatively quicker , with the team delivering work in only a few weeks given the digital approach ; Jones felt that the animators could to play to the strengths of the fully digital animation process .

= = Release = =

The Problem Solverz was first aired on April 4 , 2011 , on Cartoon Network . The premiere was seen by 1 @.@ 1 million viewers , receiving a Nielsen rating of 0 @.@ 8 , in that 0 @.@ 8 percent of families with a television set viewed the episode on that date . The most @-@ watched episode of the series (" The Mayan Ice Cream Caper ") was seen by 1 @.@ 6 million viewers . Viewership fell with the first episode to have been aired on a Thursday (" Hamburger Cavez ") , which was watched by 1 @.@ 1 million viewers . The first season concluded on September 29 , 2011 , after eighteen episodes . A second season consisting of eight episodes was released exclusively on Netflix in 2013 . Cartoon Network passed on a third season renewal .

= = Reception = =

The Problem Solverz has received mixed to negative reviews , with writers of entertainment @-@ related publications criticizing the visual style and writing . Rob Owen writing for the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette called the style reminiscent of Atari 5200 video games and wrote that viewers could " thank " or " blame " Jones for his creation . For the magazine Variety , Brian Lowry disregarded the series as uninteresting and challenging to watch , the visuals and sounds weird for weirdness ' sake . Emily Ashby of Common Sense Media defined the series as misguided , its stories as undeveloped , and its visual style as unappealing . The Weekly Alibi 's Devin D. O 'Leary acknowledged the style as Paper Rad 's own and found the writing more solid than that of Adult Swim 's programming for which it could be mistaken . The jokes were not instantly funny according to O 'Leary , but the visual style combined with the writing would provide amusement for Paper Rad 's existing fans .

Art @-@ related publications , on the other hand , gave praise to Jones ' creativity . Dan Nadel , a former publisher of Jones , lauded the series in The Comics Journal for the imagination displayed , " funny and humane and invaluable " at the same time . Paper writer Sammy Harkham called The Problem Solverz " radical " and unlike any another series on television . Geek Exchange writer Liz Ohanesian called the second season more " subdued " than the first , allowing viewers to concentrate on the principal character 's relationships . She compared the series to the band

Anamanaguchi , in that its unique and polarizing style makes fans of the series hard to find .