

# Aqua Nun



Aficionados of television sitcoms from the 1960s will of course recall “The Flying Nun,” in which Sally Field played a 90-pound novice who could fly, thanks to her lighter-than-air religious headgear (“the winged wimple”). But how many know of its predecessor, “Aqua Nun?” That show, which lasted only two episodes, described the adventures of Sister Daphne of *Le Suore del Blocco di Frutta Santo*, or, “The Nuns of the Holy Fruit Bat.” A one-time Olympic champion swimmer, Daphne was a true fish out of water at the convent – that is, when she actually *was* out of the water, which wasn’t often. She much preferred the company of aquatic life forms to terrestrial ones. But when the mother superior tasked her to conduct all of the conventual baptisms, her mood around her fellow clergywomen improved greatly. In the second and final episode, Daphne befriends two postulants named Dawn and Diedre, who are really humanoids from the planet Zontamk. Their mission is to unload cheap, alien gimcracks onto unsuspecting Earthlings, however things go awry when they mistake the convent for an upscale buyers club. A hilarious (according to the show’s producer) interspecific miscommunication leads Aqua Nun to perform full-immersion baptisms on Dawn and Diedre. Regrettably for the alien pair, Zontamkians are water-soluble. And in the single extant outtake from the show, you can see them attempting to leap out of the water shrieking in agony as their feet and legs disintegrate. The inappropriate laugh track here offended many and led to the show’s abrupt cancellation. Daphne is partly concealed by the Zontamkians, so it’s unclear what her reaction was supposed to have been. All we know for sure is that as soon as the show was killed, the uncredited actress who portrayed her vanished faster than the space traders’ lower limbs.