# Super Friends: The Heroic Adventures of DC's Finest (1976-1981)

Super Friends was a beloved animated television series that aired from 1976 to 1981, featuring iconic superheroes from the DC Comics universe. The show followed the adventures of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Aquaman, Green Lantern, and Robin as they fought against evil forces and protected the world.



Super Friends (1976-1981) #20 by Franca Abubokhale





#### The Creation of Super Friends

Super Friends was created by Hanna-Barbera Productions, the legendary animation studio behind such classic cartoons as The Flintstones, Scooby-Doo, and The Jetsons. The show was originally conceived as a way to capitalize on the popularity of the DC Comics superheroes, who were experiencing a resurgence in popularity in the early 1970s.

The first season of Super Friends premiered on ABC in 1976. The show was an instant hit, and it quickly became one of the most popular animated series on television. Super Friends ran for six seasons, ending in 1981.

#### **The Super Friends Characters**

The Super Friends team was composed of seven of the most popular DC Comics superheroes:

- Superman: The Man of Steel, with his incredible strength, speed, and flight.
- Batman: The Dark Knight, with his vast wealth, genius intellect, and mastery of martial arts.
- Wonder Woman: The Amazon princess, with her superhuman strength, speed, and agility.
- The Flash: The Scarlet Speedster, with his ability to run at incredible speeds.
- Aquaman: The King of the Seven Seas, with his ability to control and communicate with marine life.
- Green Lantern: The Emerald Knight, with his power ring that can create anything he can imagine.
- **Robin**: The Boy Wonder, Batman's loyal sidekick.

In addition to the core seven members, the Super Friends team also featured a number of other DC Comics characters, such as Hawkman, Hawkgirl, Green Arrow, Black Canary, and Cyborg.

#### **The Super Friends Adventures**

The Super Friends fought against a wide variety of villains, including Lex Luthor, The Joker, The Riddler, Brainiac, and Darkseid. The show's stories often featured the heroes working together to overcome impossible odds and save the day.

One of the most memorable episodes of Super Friends was "The Super Friends Meet the Wonder Twins," which introduced the teenage superheroes Zan and Jayna. The episode was a huge hit with fans, and the Wonder Twins quickly became regular members of the Super Friends team.

#### The Legacy of Super Friends

Super Friends was a groundbreaking animated series that helped to introduce a new generation of fans to the DC Comics superheroes. The show's popularity has never waned, and it remains one of the most beloved animated series of all time.

Super Friends has been released on DVD and Blu-ray, and it is also available to stream on a variety of platforms. The show continues to be enjoyed by fans of all ages, and it is sure to continue to entertain and inspire for generations to come.

#### Franca Abubokhale

Franca Abubokhale was a Nigerian-American actress who provided the voice of Wonder Woman in the Super Friends animated series. Abubokhale was born in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1950. She began her acting career in the early 1970s, appearing in small roles in television shows and movies.

In 1976, Abubokhale was cast as the voice of Wonder Woman in Super Friends. She voiced the character for the entire six-season run of the show. Abubokhale's performance as Wonder Woman was praised for its strength and intelligence. She helped to make Wonder Woman one of the most iconic female superheroes of all time.

After Super Friends ended, Abubokhale continued to work as a voice actress. She provided voices for characters in a variety of animated series, including The New Adventures of Batman, Batman: The Animated Series, and Justice League Unlimited.

Franca Abubokhale died of cancer in 2010. She was 60 years old. She is remembered as one of the most talented and influential voice actresses of her generation.

#### **Super Friends Trivia**

- The Super Friends theme song was written by the legendary songwriting team of Sherman and Sherman, who also wrote the theme songs for Mary Poppins, The Jungle Book, and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.
- The voice of Superman in Super Friends was provided by Bud Collyer, who was also the voice of Superman in the classic 1940s Superman radio show.
- The voice of Batman in Super Friends was provided by Olan Soule, who also voiced Batman in the 1960s Batman television series.
- The voice of Wonder Woman in Super Friends was provided by Franca Abubokhale, who was the first African-American woman to voice a major superhero in an animated series.
- The Wonder Twins' catchphrase, "Wonder Twin powers, activate!" was inspired by the catchphrase of the superhero team The Avengers,

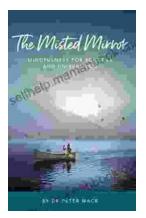
#### "Avengers Assemble!"



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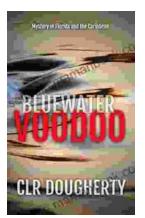
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