Asterix and the class act

Written by René Goscinny
Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

SCHOOL

MULTIPLICATION TABLE

14 ALL-NEW STORIES

Uderzo
Fourteen all-new Asterix stories

Asterix and the class act

Written by RENÉ GOSCINNY and ALBERT UDERZO

Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by ANTHEA BELL and DEREK HOCKRIDGE
The French publisher's note

During the 1960s, when René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo had time to spare from writing and drawing the longer Asterix adventures... which was not very often... they produced some little masterpieces in the form of complete short stories. The French magazine "Pilote", enjoyed by a whole generation of children, in which the Asterix stories first appeared, published most but not all of them. Others appeared in such places as American newspapers, a women's magazine, and as part of a bid for the Olympic Games to be held in Paris. It seemed a good idea to collect all these short stories in a special Asterix album — in fact here at Les Éditions Albert René, we were receiving such terrible threats that we absolutely had to do it. If we didn't publish them, said readers, they would make us eat roast boar for breakfast! So we gave in to the outrageous demands of certain blackmailers whose identity we shall have to reveal one of these days.

But for the moment, having brought these lost treasures to light, we hope you will enjoy reading them. Some of the stories in this book are both written and illustrated by Albert on his own, because they were created after the death in 1977 of his friend and colleague, the other half of the most famous strip cartoon team in the world, René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo.

None of these stories had been published in English before, although several were included in our 1993 collection (see page 47 for the full story). Seeing his publishers absorbed in the difficult but fascinating task of collecting the stories and improving the original picture quality for "Asterix and the Class Act", Albert set to work again. And in the spring of 2003 he produced the cover design and the words and drawings for a brand-new five-page story, about a cockerel with amazing powers. Will the roosters who wakes the Gauls every morning have the children of today to get up and go to school for their own class act?
THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF THE INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM...
ASTÉRIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES, A SHREWDD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTÉRIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX...

OBELIX, ASTÉRIX’S INSEPARABLE FRIEND, A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTÉRIX - SO LONG AS THERE’S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.

GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE...

CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE’S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE’S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN’T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM...

FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE, MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED. THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW, BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.
DEAR READERS, I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE ... I KNOW SOME OF YOU WANT TO PUT A FEW QUESTIONS TO ME, CHIEF VITALISTIX. SO, FIRE AWAY!

YES?

WILL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE BE ABROAD OR AT HOME?

WILL YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN IT YOURSELF?

THANK YOU...

WILL IT BE AS FUNNY AND EXCITING AS THE OTHER STORIES? WILL THE ROMANS GET A GOOD THUMPING?

IS THAT ALL?

RIGHT ... YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE STORY WILL TAKE PLACE. IF I SHALL PLAY A LEADING PART, AND IF THE ROMANS WILL GET A GOOD THUMPING ...

THIS IS A COLLECTION OF SEVERAL STORIES TAKING PLACE IN AND AROUND OUR BELIEVED VILLAGE ... AS YOUR LEADER OF COURSE I SHALL PLAY A STATISTICALY VITAL PART AND, YES, THE ROMANS WILL CERTAINLY GET A GOOD THUMPING!

DID I HEAR SOMEONE ASK WHEN OUR ADVENTURES WILL BEGIN?

AS SOON AS YOU TAKE THE TROUBLE TO TURN THIS PAGE! THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!
The magazine “Pilote” published 52 issues a year, so the editorial team had to rack its brains to think up new stories every week.

When the beginning of the new school year came round, it seemed an ideal subject. René and Albert thought about the logistical problems facing the Gauls in getting their children to school. Here we see them, rather in advance of their time, using the equivalent of the school bus in the year 50 BC. René sat down at his typewriter and soon sent Albert the text. “One of René’s talents,” Albert Uderzo still remembers, “was a gift for adapting his stories for different artists. Morris hated wordplay, so René didn’t use it in the ‘Lucky Luke’ cowboy stories that Morris illustrated. Tabary, who illustrated René’s stories about the wicked Arabian Nights vizier ‘Iznogoud’, loved puns, so these books are full of them.”

There was total sympathy and understanding between René and Albert, who were great friends and equal partners. They never felt the slightest anxiety about the quality of each other’s work. The cover of the magazine “Pilote” was created by Albert.

“Pilote”, n° 363
Asterix and the Class Act

Oh yes, Obelix! You know you put your menhir down on this day every year.
The fact is, I feel a little weak, Asterix.

And you know, Getafix wants us to pick up kids, not menhirs, so don't grouse.

Hmph! I'm not grousing! I just feel a little weak.

Aaaah! Nooo! Male chauvinist boar!

Brutal misogynist!

Such language! Where do they pick it up?

Come down! Come down this minute, by Belenos!

Don't, by Toutatis, so there!

Everything okay, Obelix?

You bet! We're a real class act.

One more trip and that'll be all the tiny tots.

Hey! Come here, will you?

Put that menhir down, Obelix! Today's the day!

What, already? Oh no!
YOON WE YOWL! BUT I HAD TO PICK THE PRETTY TREE, DOGMATIX!

IT'S SOOO UNFAIR! WE'RE THE YOOF CULTURE! LET US DO OUR THING!

THERE WE ARE ... ALL TOTTED UP!

CHILDREN, I'M ASHAMED OF YOU. EVERY NEW SCHOOL YEAR YOU HAVE TO BE ROUNDED UP LIKE WILD BOAR PIGELOTS! YOU KNOW YOU MUST GO TO SCHOOL IF YOU'RE TO BE GOOD GALLIGS!

SO WHY DON'T ASTERIX AND OBELEX GO TO SCHOOL, O DRUID?

THEY DID AT YOUR AGE, AND THEY WORKED HARD, RIGHT. THIS IS CLASSROOM CHALLENGE!

OBELEX, FOR A STARTER DATE OF THE BATTLE OF GERSONIA?

WOA!

THE BATTLE WE WON? THE BATTLE WE WON!

MDNX! WOULD IT BE MDNX?

NO, IT WOULD NOT BE MDNX!

THE BATTLE OF GERSONIA ... COME ON, COME ON! I WANT AN ANSWER.
To celebrate 35 years of Asterix stories, we decided to publish an Asterix Special for the little Paul’s birthday, a one-off magazine in the spirit of “Pilote” in the 1960s. We got together famous names and European authors who wanted to pay tribute to Asterix and his friends. As part of our project, of course, we hoped for a new Asterix story.

It was in a plane bound for Copenhagen in the spring of 1994 that Albert Uderzo told us, with relish, about his idea for an original story to celebrate the birthday. He was already looking forward to revealing the secret of the birth of Asterix and Obelix, and at the same time he told us the names of the older generation: Asterix’s parents, Astronomix and Sarsaparilla, and Obelix’s father and mother Obeliscodix and Vanilla.

“Le Journal exceptionnel d’Astérix”
In the Year 35 B.C.

Coming out to play, Vitalstatistix?

All right, but remember I'm the chief!

Why the devil are you yelling?

Because my dad is the chief of this village, he's the boss! That's why!

Oh yeah? Well, my dad says your dad ought to be watered in with our houthe before bothering the village about!

What was that?

I'm about to lothe my temper, thou watch out!

He's right?

No, he's wrong!

Cluck! Squawk!

Put that chicken down, you foul pests!

Aren't you ashamed of yourselves, fighting like little barbarians?
AND HERE WE SEE THE VERY FIRST
IN A LONG SERIES OF FISH FIGHTS
IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE.

MEANWHILE...

OFF YOU GO,
ASTRONOMIX!
THIS IS NO PLACE
FOR YOU! LEAVE
IT ALL TO US!

YOU SHOULD BE
ASHAMED OF YOURSELF,
FIGHTING IN
FRONT OF YOUR
CHILDREN!

DO BE SENSIBLE, OBELISCOIDIX!
YOU WON'T BE ANY USE IN THERE!

IT'S GALLING
FOR A GAUL TO
BE SO HELPLESS AT
A TIME LIKE THIS.
DON'T YOU THINK,
OBELISCOIDIX?

YUP... AND WHEN
I FEEL GALLED
I GET HUNGRY!

SPLATCH!

FOLLOW ME!
THIS WILL CALM
US DOWN!

STOP THAT!
THIS IS NO DAY
FOR VULGAR
BRAWLS!
A few days after the birth of the two babies, the whole village meets to celebrate the happy event. There is a banquet, with plenty of roast wild boar.

One of them's a lot fatter than the other.

Funnny, he seems to like the smell of roast boar already!

When I grow up I shall sing odes in their praise.

Oh 'eck! We'll see about that!

Let's congratulate the happy fathers of these two newborn galls instead!

I have a son!!!

Me too!!!

His name is Asterix and he'll be as big and strong as his dad!

Mine is called Obelix and he'll be as shrewd and cunning as his father!

Born at the same time and on the same day, by Tuitatis! It's a sign that they'll be best friends for ever!
In 50 BC
May 1977

Written by René Goscinny
Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

Georges Dargaud, the publisher of Pilote and the Asterix books, wanted to see his leading series reach the American market. The head of an American syndicate visited Paris to meet the creators of the phenomenally successful character Asterix, and they soon came to an agreement. An Asterix album would be published in daily instalments in a number of American papers. René and Albert were delighted but cautious, and thought it might be a good idea to present the world of Asterix to the Americans in an original, condensed form before embarking on the publication of a whole story. The result was these three pages, which for a long time were unknown even in France. Enjoy!

It was the famous National Geographic magazine that published them in May 1977, when it was running a major piece about the Gauls. However, the authors’ efforts went unrewarded. Publication in American strip cartoon format meant reducing the size of the pictures, which made it difficult to read the speech bubbles. As the authors did not want to have their original work modified beyond the adaptations usual in translation, the experiment ended after the first album—since René and Albert declined an offer for them to go and live in the USA so as to suit their work to the “American format”.

There were two kinds of Gauls. Some had accepted the rule of the Roman invader...

...and imitated their conquerors language and behaviour...

Quo vadis, Domi... Alea jacta est...

...and the lovers of liberty who still held out against the invaders.
IN SO BC THE ROMAN ARMY HAD OCCUPIED THE ENTIRE KNOWN WORLD...

IN ROME, JULIUS CAESAR WENT FROM TRIUMPH TO TRIUMPH...

THEIR GENERAL JULIUS CAESAR, NOW AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POWER, WAS STILL DREAMING OF NEW CONQUESTS...

ARE YOU QUITE SURE THERE'S NOTHING OVER THERE?

NO.

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GIVE US THE AFTERNOON OFF TO GO SHOPPING?

NICE TOWN, I SAY. WHAT BUT A BIT TOO LATIN FOR MY TASTE?

TO VISIT IT IS NOT BAD, BUT IF I WERE IT WOULD NOT LIKE.

NO. DID YOU SEE THE PRICES?

LÈS 10

AMONG THOSE DEFEATED NATIONS WAS GAUL.

TODAY THE FRENCH LIVE IN GAUL, AND IT IS CALLED FRANCE.

THE ANCESTORS OF THE FRENCH WERE KNOWN AS GAULS.

HOW ARE YOU, SIR?

MUSTN'T GRUMBLE WHILE IT KEEPS FINE.

HOW ARE YOU, SIR?

MUSTN'T GRUMBLE WHILE THE SKY DOESN'T FALL ON OUR HEADS...

THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF GAULS. SOME HAD ACCEPTED THE RULE OF THE ROMAN INVADER...

... AND HIJACKED THEIR CONQUERORS' LANGUAGE AND BEHAVIOUR...

... AND THE LOVERS OF LIBERTY WHO STILL FELL OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS.

QUO VADIS, DOMINE?

ALEA JACTA EST...
ONE SUCH GROUP OF GAILS WAS HOLDING OUT IN A TINY VILLAGE ON THE WEST COAST OF THE COUNTRY.

OF ALL THE VILLAGE WARRIORS, ASTERIX WAS THE MOST INTELLIGENT...

... AND THE BEST AT UNMASKING ROMAN SPIES.

OBELIX, A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, IS ASTERIX’S BEST FRIEND.

HISTORIANS HAVE NOT YET FOUND OUT WHAT MENHIRS WERE ACTUALLY FOR.

AND AS FOR THE USE OBELIX OFTEN MAKES OF THEM, THE ROMANS AS WELL AS HISTORIANS ARE AT CROSS PURPOSES.

CROSS, BY JUPITER? I’M FURIOUS! THIS IS NOT WHAT I D’CALL LIGHT BANTER!

LOOK, ASTERIX! I’VE TAUGHT DOMMATIX A NEW TRICK!

THIS MAY SEEM STRANGE, BUT REMEMBER THAT DOG BISCUITS HAD NOT YET BEEN INVENTED IN 50 BC.

SMACK!!
LIKE THE OTHER VILLAGERS, DOMITIUS HAD HIS AMBITIOUS STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED IN THE DRUID HEAltAX.

THE BARD CACORINIX IS ANOTHER PROMINENT VILLAGER...

THE VILLAGE CHIEF IS THE MAJESTIC VITALSTATISTA...

AS THERE IS NOTHING THE ROMANS CAN DO ABOUT THE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OF THE GAULISH VILLAGERS...

YOU KNOW DOGMArax, HATES PEOPLE TO PULL UP TREES!

THE GAULS (OR MOST OF THEM) REMAIN FREE AND HAPPY.

BY JUPITER, IT TOOK NINE YEARS TO GO BEFORE I'M DEMOBBED!

AND SO IS FULLAUTONIX, THE BLACKSMITH WHO IS ALSO PROBABLY THE ANCESTOR OF ALL MUSIC CRITICS.

THE GAULS HATE TO BOW TO THE ANCESTORS OF THEIR CLEARANCE.

I WANTED THE OTHERS TO BOW, YOU FOOLS, NOT YOU!

BUT CHIEF, YOU SAID YOURSELF...

THERE'S NO DISCIPLINE IN THIS VILLAGE ANY MORE! NO RESPECT! YOU ARE ALL TO BOW TO ME AND MY AUTHORITY!

AND THE ROMANS TOO...

BY JUPITER, THAT GAULISH BREW PACKS A PUNCH!
Never before published, this five-page story was finished in May 2003 and is about the village cockerel. It adds to Albert Uderzo’s carnival of animals. He has always been particularly fond of chickens. Every Asterix album contains hens and cockerels leading their private and obviously harmonious family lives in the corners of the pictures. The idea for this story came from a projected film spin-off. With René Goscinny, Albert Uderzo once planned a pilot for an animated cartoon film starring Dogmatix—a rarity which has remained unknown. But when he looked at it again 30 years later, Albert thought he would like to write a new story about the birds who share the village with the indomitable Gauls.

You might think that the magical forest of Brocéliande, not far from the Gaulish village, had given them new powers— but don’t tell Obelix!
IT IS OFTEN THOUGHT THAT ANIMALS HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER. WE SEE THE PROOF OF IT IN THE FOLLOWING STORY, WHICH BEGINS IN THE SKIES OF ARMORICA, JUST ABOVE A LITTLE VILLAGE THAT WE KNOW WELL.

THERE'S THIS ANIMAL WITH AN IMPERIAL MAJESTY WITH A FINE APPETIZER!

CHILDREN! QUICK! GET UNDER COVER!

WHAT IS IT, MUMMA? IT'S A NASTY BIRD WHO CARRIES OFF BABY CHICKS TO EAT THEM, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

NONE OF THAT! SHUT YOUR BIG BEAK OR YOU'LL FEEL MINE IN SHORT PECKING ORDER!!!

HO, HO, HO! YOU THINK A POULTRY WOULD SCARE ME? WHY, YOU CAN'T EVEN FLY!

MAYBE NOT, BUT I AM THE EMBLEM OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE!

YOU KNOW WHAT GALLUS GALLUS SAYS TO YOU?

THEN LET ME TELL YOU, GALLUS! NARCISUS MINUS, THAT I AM THE EMBLEM OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE!

GO BOIL AN EGG AND YOUR IMPERIAL HEAD TOO!
YOU’LL SOON HAVE EGG ALL OVER YOUR FACE, TITCH!

TURKEY

NO BIRDS OF PREY IN MY POULTRY YARD!

PAF!

AND DON’T YOU SHOW YOUR NASTY BEAK ’N’ HERE AGAIN, GET IT?

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY, MY YOUNG COCK-SPARROW, BUT I’M CHALLENGING YOU’MORROW AT DAWN, OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, AND WE’LL SEE WHICH OF US IS THE BETTER BATTLE-PAW.

YOU’RE NEVER GOING TO FACE THAT MONSTER, ARE YOU? HE’S MUCH STRONGER THAN YOU.

I KNOW, BUT I CAN’T BE CHICKEN...

THE HONOUR OF ALL THE POULTRY YARDS OF GAUL IS AT STAKE!

IF HE INSISTS, POOR CHANTICLEER WILL GET THE BIRD, THAT’S FOR SURE!

?”

BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP!

?”

HEY! DOGMATIX! ARE YOU AT HOME?

YES, WHAT DO YOU WANT, HENNA?

CHANTICLEER HAS ACCEPTED A CHALLENGE FROM THE IMPERIAL EAGLE! THEY’RE TO FIGHT A DUEL TOMORROW AT DAWN.

OH DEAR, I SEE THAT BIRD WILL MAKE CHICKEN KNUCKLES OF YOU!

UNLESS YOU CAN HELP LISTEN, THIS IS MY IDEA...

HUM... HUM... HUM... HUM...

WHISPER, WHISPER... SEE WHAT I MEANT...

WELL, YES, BUT IT WON’T BE EASY!

OH DEAR... YOU WON’T CATCH ME UP BEFORE THE BEAK AGAIN! OH HELP!

WIGHT HAS FALLEN AND EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IS ASLEEP. NOT QUITE EVERYONE... ONE SMALL FOWL STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVASION OF SLEEP.

DON’T CALL ME NAMES!
AND NEXT MORNING AT DAWN

LET'S GO OUT IN THE FOREST AND PICK A FEW NICE BOARS FOR BREAKFAST.

OOH, YES! I LOVE PICKING THEM OFF WITH THE MORNING DAWN STILL ON THEM.

THAT'S ODD, OBVIOUSLY DOGMATIX HADN'T COME HUNTING WITH US!

YES, HE'LL BE BARKING MAD WHEN HE FINDS OUT!

THE MAGIC POTION!!! YOU DID IT, DOGMATIX!

WHERE'S GIANT-CLERIX?

FOLLOW ME! HE'S HIDING BEHIND THE HENHOUSE. DOING DRESS-UPS.

DOGMATIX HAS BROUGHT YOU A SECRET WEAPON. YOU CAN DEFEAT YOUR IMPERIAL ENEMY WITH IT.

THENTH-ONE, TWENTY-TWO ... WHAT IS IT? TWENTY-THREE, THENTH ...

MAGIC POTION!

Er ... Are you sure potion goes well with chicken?

DINGO ... it's a risk you have to take!

Hey ... no skipping off! The villagers need their alarm call!

Okay, okay ... cockadoodle do! That do you?

I'll take the squab back before Asterix notices that it's gone!

Swish! Glogg!
Seems to be working!  
Yeup, it seems...

Oh, isn't he handsome! And he's flying!
Yep, that's normal when you're on the potion! He's now, Henna!

I still don't see that Gaulish Champion! Has he chickened out?

Ooo, Tchac!

Wh... what happened? I've been plucked!

Splat!
COCKADOODLE DO! AND I DID! COCKADOODLE DOOO!

Meanwhile...

Oh, there you are, you little rascal! What were you doing while we were getting breakfast?

Just giving the village cockerel a helping paw!

What did you say, Obelix?

Good for you!

Oh, nothing! Dogmatix just told me he'd been giving the village cockerel a helping paw.

Sometimes I wonder if Obelix acts stupid just to annoy me!

- Gandor - THE END
The issue of “Pilote” published at the end of the year always had to be about New Year customs...

This time René thought it would be a good idea if the Gauls joined in. He suggested to Albert reinventing an old custom dating back to Druid traditions: kissing under the mistletoe. In “Asterix the Legionary” Obelix fell in love with the beautiful Panacea, so the authors enjoyed going back to the subject. This time Obelix actually dares to try snatching a kiss, a very unusual situation for him... but a skilful move thrwarts his intentions. In condensed form, this story expresses all René Gascinny’s delicacy of feeling and sense of humour, and the tender, beautiful line of Albert Uderzo’s drawing.
for Gaul
Lang Syne

THE ANCIENT GAILS HAD SOME CHARMING NEW YEAR CUSTOMS...

These pleasing encounters were sheer coincidence.

...but some unscrupulous Gauls lent coincidence a helping hand.

Go and play, Dogmatix! Go on, play with Asterix! I'm busy; this is not for the eyes of little dogs.

Good, here comes Panacea off we go.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, PANACEA?

I'M JUST TAKING OUR DRUID GETAFOX SOME DRY FIREWOOD.

I'M GOING TO TRY IT FOR YOU.

Oh, thanks, Scarlata!

Kissy kiss, SMACK!

COU! I SAH, OBELIX!

Caesar's given orders; we're to respect the local customs of occupied countries, so I'm respecting them.
Ouch!

You shouldn't have hit that poor Roman, a custom is a custom!

O Druid geta pig!

Kissy kissy!

I've brought you some dry wood, O Druid!

Oh, there you are, Obelix!

Yes! Here I am! That's right, here I am! Now you see me!

Kissy kissy!

Now you don't! This is too much! I'm kissing off now by Toutatis!

What's the matter, Obelix? I was going to tell you I found Dogmatix and he...

Oh, the little scamp!

Smack!

The End
In view of the huge success of Asterix and his friends, the weekly magazine “Elle” asked the authors to provide a story on a women’s subject for one of their summer issues.

Although it is true that the village of indomitable Gauls is rather a male society, the authors progressively introduced heroines into the story as regular characters, for instance: Impedimenta the chief’s wife, Mrs. Geriatrix (the star of this two-page story), Panacea and Cleopatra.

So it would be wrong to call the authors of the Asterix books anti-feminist! In fact women play a much more important part than in many other famous series! And if the humour sometimes gently mocks them, it certainly doesn’t spare the men either. Look at the rather unflattering pictures of Chief Vitalstatistix, Unhygienix the fishmonger or Fulliautomatix the village blacksmith! Thank you!
IT HAS OFTEN BEEN CLAIMED THAT THE ANCIENT GAULS WERE BARBARIANS. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. VERCINGETORIX PROUD HARRIERS UNDERSTOOD CIVILIZED REFINEMENT. AND THEIR LOVABLE LADY FRIENDS DIDN'T BOther WITH ALL THAT LOUD-MOUTHED VENI, VIDI, VICI STUFF. THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THE QUESTION OF MING, MIDI OR MAN.

NOTICE THE NATURAL ELEGANCE OF HER FIGURE ...

... AND THE INFINITE CARE SHE HAS TAKEN WITH HER HAIRSTYLE

AND NOW TO STUDY GAULISH FASHIONS

I MEAN, I AM THE CHIEF'S WIFE!

GAULISH WOMEN WORE A TUNIC ...

LOOK, IMPEDIMENTA, WOULD YOU AND LEAVING US ALONE? CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE FIGHTING

WHAT WAS THAT?

YOU LITTLE MADAM! WHO SAYS YOU CAN TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?

GERTATRIX SWEETIES!

SOMETIMES WITH A SECOND TUNIC WORN OVER IT...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOPSY?

IN AN ELEGANTLY MATCHING COLOUR

POPSY HERE IS A PROPER LITTLE MADAM, THAT'S WHAT!

THE CLOSE-FITTING ATTRACTIVE LOW-CUT BODICES ...

GERTATRIX, HONESTLY ARE YOU GOING TO LET HER SAY THOSE THINGS?

WELL...

ER... NO... LISTEN, IMPEDIMENTA ...

VITAL STATISTICS!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN OLD WRECK?!!

DID YOU CALL ME IMPEDIMENTA DEAR?

THAT OLD WRECK INSULTED ME!
These three pages of anthology pieces, which have kept all their force and originality, are very much in the spirit of "Pilote" magazine in the 1960s. The texts make their points tellingly and are very funny, while the drawing — or rather drawings — show a breathtaking mastery of many different graphic styles. How can an artist change his own style to caricature other strip cartoon illustrators so cleverly? There is a touch of the famous American "Mad" magazine here. The author has fun showing us what his imagination has come up with — for by agreement with René Goscinny, Albert both wrote and drew these three amazing pages by himself. A treat to be (re)discovered.
SUGGESTIONS

SUGGESTION 1


SUGGESTION 2

"STORIES TOO LONG" - STOP - "TOO MUCH DIALOGUE" - STOP - "NOT ENOUGH SIMPLICITY IN DRAWING" - STOP - "WHY NOT TAKE ASTERIX TO AMERICA?" - STOP - "SIGNED, PROFESSOR HEDDY, UNIVERSITY OF NANTES."

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BANG BANG

RIOX

DRUID'S MAGIC BOAT - STOP - OFF TO DISCOVER VIRGIN TERRITORY FOR THE RIX OF GAIL - STOP

OUR RIX WILL BE DISAPPOINTED - STOP - NOT TO GET AMERICA! - STOP

STOP.
SUGGESTION 5 “I'D LIKE TO SEE ASTERIX A BIT MORE TRENDY, A PSYCHEDELIC ASTERIX, FOR INSTANCE! AND WHY DON'T WOMEN FEATURE MORE IN YOUR STORIES? YOU'RE NOT ANTI-FEMINISTS, ARE YOU? AVE, FRIENDS! SIGNED: A FAN.”

THANKS TO THE DEVIL'S MAGIC FLOWERS, WE CAN NOW DO A PROPER JOB OF FIGHTING THE WILD WOMEN WARRIORS LED BY PROLIFIC DEODORA OBELIX!

WE HAVE ONLY TO BRUSH THEM GENTLY WITH THESE FLOWERS, SO GETAFIX TOLD ME, WATCH OUT! THEY'RE ATTACKING!

IF YOU ASK ME, ASTERIX, THIS ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS A GOOD PUNCH-UP!

AND HERE'S THE LAST SUGGESTION, THE ONE WHICH WE AS THE AUTHORS WOULD LIKE TO PUT TO YOU. OUR READERS, IT'S A QUESTION OF AESTHETICS, WHICH JUST SUDDENLY CAME TO US. A DARING IDEA, WE ADMIT, BUT ALL THE SAME WE KNOW OUR CHARACTERS WELL. I MEAN WE MADE THEM UP, DIDN'T WE? SO WE HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE IDEAS TOO, OH YES WE DO! OH, REALLY, WE DON'T BELIEVE IT!?? SHUT UP! WE'RE FREE AGENTS, AREN'T WE? VERY WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU LOT FEEL, IN FUTURE ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL WEAR PLUS-FOURS...

HONESTLY! I MEAN, I ASK YOU! THESE AUTHORS ARE CRAZY!

TAP! TAP! TAP!
In the mid-1980s the mayor of Paris turned to Asterix for help in its Olympic bid. Jacques Chirac and his municipal team wanted Paris (the former city of Lutetia) to stage the AD 1992 Games.

Albert Uderzo was asked to create a poster and a small four-page strip cartoon story to win support from the Parisii tribe of Lutetia. He liked the idea, and designed a poster which went up all over the capital in 1986. The story was published in "Jours de France", a popular magazine of the last century. In the end the Olympic Committee did not award the Games to Paris, but obviously not everyone lost out, since just for the record, the original of the poster was never returned to the artist! But never mind: here you can see the Eiffel Tower turned into a huge, magnificent dovecote, and a really nasty villain is added to the rogues' gallery of the Asterix stories.

"Jours de France", n° 1660
Peace temporarily reigns between the Gauls of Asterix's little village and the Romans garrisoning the nearby fortified camp.

A message by express carrier! Let us bend...

...our minds to its contents!

It was only a figure of speech, you fools!!!

Clang!

Right, you two jokers! Listen to this message signed by Part-gaulus, chief of the Paris tribe in Lutetia.

Exactly 100 years ago a Gaulish athlete called Pierre Decoubertix won at the Olympic Games in Greece. It was the first time a non-Greek athlete had ever been crowned with the laurel wreath of victory! To commemorate this event, the Olympic committee has decided to hold its next games outside Greece!

Gauls living in Lutetia who later gave their name to Paris.

“General great cities of the ancient world have put in bids to host the games. It would be only right for them to be held in Lutetia, the Gaulish capital. We must therefore persuade the delegates of the Olympic committee who are coming to visit us to award the city that honour.”

“Rome has also made a bid for the games. Julius Caesar is sure to cause trouble to ensure that Rome gets chosen. So I am asking the village of indomitable Gauls to help us. Please send your most courageous warriors! The honour of Gaul is at stake!”

True, Asterix, but tell your courageous friend to stop laughing in that slow way! The honour of the village is at stake!

Pffuh! Ahah!
As you see, Lutetia is at the cutting edge of new technology!!

Yeah.

If you'll be kind enough to follow me, I'll show you round...

Yeah.

...our great city of art and literature!

Yeah.

Dogmatix seems to have smelt a rat!

Better keep our eyes open.

The high cultural reputation of Lutetia makes it the crossroads of the ancient world.

Yeaah.

Lutetia is also famous for the warmth of its welcome, its hotels and its fine food!

Oh, Asterix I'm hungry!

This is the carrier pigeon tower, which has given Lutetia a reputation for running the fastest communications system in the ancient world...

Yeah.

...with only the occasional fowl-up.

Oh yeaah?

Here are the Lutetian arenas, situated close to the heart of the city and able to hold the maximum number of spectators. All the Olympic sports can be staged here!

Yeah.

I have a cunning plan! Let's kidnap the President of the Olympic Committee! Lutetia will be disgraced and lose any chance of being picked for the games. Teeheehee!
We don't want your Olympic Games in Lutetia, and you don't get your president back until you leave the country for good. Greeks go home!

Oh, yeah, Asterix!

Time we stepped in, Obelix!

Soon afterwards, I hope we didn't alarm you! That was just a little exercise to demonstrate the efficiency of our security service!

Pif! Paaf!

That was fantastic!

Lutetia shall be the next Olympic capital!!

The efficiency of your security service has won you the games!

Oh, it was only a routine exercise!

Phew... What would it have been like for me?

And later, in Caesar's palace in Rome...

Right, Inglorious Pithecantropus, you too will take part in the games... in the circus! Playing with the lions! Yeah!!!

After the success of the Lutetia Games, Toutatis tells me that the Paris of the future will be staging another Olympic Games in their beautiful city too!
René Goscinny, overworked at the time, asked Albert if he had any ideas for a story about spring. For the second time Albert wrote a little story of his own and showed it to his colleague before he drew the pictures.

René was delighted with the magical seasons, so Albert created this two-page story on his own, as well as the cover picture of the magazine. Albert was inspired by his childhood, when he loved walking from the Faubourg Saint-Antoine to Aligre market near the Bastille in Paris, where the costermongers sold fruit and vegetables from their barrows.

René simply suggested to his friend the part played by Obelix in the final delightful gag.

“Pilote”, n°334
Springtime in Gaul

Looking for a fight, Obelix!!

A little man in a bad way!!

Judging by his size, it's a long time since he was fed up!

Let's take him to Getafix, our druid will be able to cure him...

It would be handy if we could call a mobile druid.

And a little later, thanks to the expert care of Getafix the Druid:

I've never seen anything like it!

Who are you, o little man?

You think these little things can talk?

Of course they can. Every bit as well as those big fat things! I am spring!

Of course, spring's a long time coming! Still no boars to hunt, no other game...

No running game for a fight either! I'm fed up!

Watch out, son! Winter's been particularly hard this year.

Favourite son of the great barrel-girl in the sky who sends seasonal produce down to earth.

Don't worry, by Touatis! I shall destroy him, same as usual!

Full of confidence, I dropped to earth...

Here I come! We'll see who's the most seasoned fighter!

Where are you, Winter? I'm going to make it hot for you!

Teshes! Don't lose your cool!
SPRING HAS SPRUNG! HAVING PUT WINTER TO FLIGHT FOR MANY MONTHS, HE HAPPILY GETS DOWN TO WORK.

WHEREVER HE GOES BUDS OPEN, GRASS BLOOMS AND EVERYTHING IN SIGHT IS FULL OF THE JOYS OF SPRING.

BY JUPITER, THESE GALLS ARE A SHOWER!

SPRINGTIME IN GAUL IS THE BEST EVER!

ASTÉRIX, I'VE GOT HAY FEVER ... DO YOU THINK A LITTLE BASILIC POTION WOULD ... ?

AND WITH SUNSHINE AND SPRING SHOWER THAT

NO MORE MR ICE GUY!

ONE SWALLOW MAKES ME SPRING ... IT'S BACK TO WINTER QUARTERS FOR YOU!

SPRING WAS SPRUNG! HAVING PUT WINTER TO FLIGHT FOR MANY MONTHS, HE HAPPILY GETS DOWN TO WORK.

WHEREVER HE GOES BUDS OPEN, GRASS BLOOMS AND EVERYTHING IN SIGHT IS FULL OF THE JOYS OF SPRING.

SPRINGTIME IN GAUL IS THE BEST EVER!

ASTÉRIX, I'VE GOT HAY FEVER ... DO YOU THINK A LITTLE BASILIC POTION WOULD ... ?

THE END
The story of “The mascot” was originally published in the smaller format of the “Super Pocket Pilote” series, and in a magazine commissioned by the town council of Romainville — one of the suburbs of Lutetia. With a name like that — “Roman-town” — it was not surprising that the council should invite Asterix and his friends to pay a visit. In this complete story, full of the familiar features of the Asterix adventures, Dogmatix is kidnapped. Obelix’s little friend, who first appeared in “Asterix and the Banquet”, soon became one of the favourite characters in the village. Here he is the victim of his own charms — after all, anyone would want a little dog who was so keen on preserving the environment twenty centuries ahead of his time!

It was all thanks to Dogmatix that Obelix stopped uprooting trees and became ecologically conscious!
WHY?
OUR QUIET, QUICKDOOT.
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO GET ME DOWN, YOU ARE!

BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A MASCOT!

WHAT?
A MASCOT?
OF COURSE! WE NEED A MASCOT!
OUR MATES BACK HOME ON THE CAPITOL HAVE THE SACRED
SEEREE, THOSE SEEREE TURNED OUT GOOD EGGEE!

HE'S GOT A RIGHT TO SPEAK LATIN GRAMMAR!

PAS!
QUOTED HIS PARAGRAPHS!
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR A LITTLE ANIMAL TO BE OUR MASCOT!

I'M SURE TO FIND A LITTLE ANIMAL SOMEWHERE IN THIS FOREST.

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

WATCH THIS!!!
THEN YOU'LL SEE WHAT A GREAT LITTLE DOG DOGMATIX IS!

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT YOUR GREAT LITTLE DOGMATIX TO DO?

FETCH, DOGMATIX!
A stunning stroke of luck! All our troubles are over!

Look, boys! Our lucky mascot! When I saw him inspiration struck!

Before or after you saw him, was it?

Meanwhile

Dogmatix isn't back yet... That's funny!

I knew that menhir was too big for him!

You just don't trust Dogmatix! Of course, he's not very self-confident yet!

Never mind arguing, let's look for him!

There's the menhir!

Yes, but where's Dogmatix?

He must be playing with the pretty butterflies... Dogmatix likes butterflies. Dogmatix... Dogmatix!

Yoo-hoo! Dogmatix!

Obelix, look at that!

A Roman legionary's helmet!!!

A helmet? But Dogmatix and the menhir were both bare-headed when...

Don't you see, Obelix? A legionary has kidnapped Dogmatix!!!

Kidnapped Dogmatix? I'll teach them to go kidnapping Dogmatix! By Toutatis, I will!

Cala down, Obelix!
I DON'T WANT TO CALM DOWN! I WANT DOGMATIX!!!

MEANWHILE...

WHAT SHALL WE CALL OUR MASCOT?

SOMETHING ENDING IN "IX"...

HERS'S A NICE BONUS FOR HIM ANYWAY!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, MEN?

A MASCOT, CENTURION!

VERY SWEET...

BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY OBEDIENT...

I'LL TRAIN HIM FOR YOU, BY JUPITER!

GRRRRRR!

WOOF! WOOF!

AHA! YOU WOULDN'T TRY BITING ME AGAIN, EH? YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR MASTER!

ER... I THINK HE DOES...

!!!

WHO LET THESE GAULS INTO CAMP AND WHAT DO THEY WANT?

HE LET US INTO CAMP...

AND WE WANT DOGMATIX!

LET THAT Sentry GO, AND AS FOR THE DOG, COME AND GET HIM, BY MERCURY!

TCHAC!

TCHOC!

PAF!
THAT'S ENOUGH FUN, DOGMATIK! WE'RE OFF, AND DON'T LET US CATCH YOU DOING IT AGAIN, BY BELNOS!

O0000O00H!

SO WE THINK A MASCOT IS A GOOD IDEA. DO WE? SO WE'RE LOOKING AT OUR CENTURION WITH SUBTLE IRONY, ARE WE?

RIGHT, OFF YOU GO TO PATROL THE FOREST AGAIN, JUST TO TEACH YOU A LESSON! QUICK MARCH!

OH, WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA THAT MASCOT CERTAINLY BROUGHT US LUCK!

HOW WAS I TO KNOW?

BEAT! PAUPERES SPIRITUI!

YOU COULD SHOW SOME SPIRIT, TIDIO!

WATCH OUT!

WOOF! WOOF!

THE LUCKY MASCOT! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!!

SEE HOW MUCH MORE SELF-CONFIDENT DOGMATIK IS SINCE THE ROMANS TRUSTED HIM, ASTERIX?

I MUST ADMIT THAT FOR ONCE, OBELIX, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

THE END
Thirty years ago, amused by the campaign against the use of English words in French—a phenomenon known as “franglais”—René Goscinny decided to use the Gauls to poke fun at it. He replied indirectly and humorously to the famous author Maurice Druon, one of the keenest to defend the purity of French, by imagining a similar fashion for “Latinismo” in occupied Gaul, and wrote this story, drawn by Albert Uderzo. It will certainly teach you more Latin than the other stories in this collection, by Toutatis!

This story, entitled “Latinomania” or “Et cetera”, has been completely re-inked and re-coloured, like most of the stories here that date from the 1960s. Below is the cover of the first edition of the book you are now reading, published in France in 1993. Four hundred thousand copies were sold within weeks. However, it has never before been published in English, so all fourteen stories are new to readers of Asterix on the other side of the Channel.

Just for the record, on 10 August 1993, the day the first edition (in a giftbox with the videos of the first Asterix films) was released, the French publishers’ switchboards crashed. The success of the book, which sold far more copies than the most optimistic had expected, persuaded us to promise a new, improved and longer edition to the readers and booksellers who have been waiting eagerly for it. Would we ever give in to blackmail? By Toutatis, no! But here at last is the book!
Back in the 60s a number of English words invaded the French language. The result was known as Frankolatry but it was not the first time such a thing had happened in ancient Gaul. Back in the 60s (BC, of course)...

Hey, you two! Keep off my Geraniums!

Oops! Mea culpa!

You might pay a minimum of attention!

A little decorum, please, dear!

There's no need to shout! This isn't a forum or an auditorium!

Me, shouting? It's you shouting! Shut up and that's an ultimatum!

Ultimatum? We'll see about that!

No! Not the aquarium!

I heard all that! It's a crying shame. Speaking Latin we must preserve the purity of our beautiful Gaulish language!

Speaking Latin? Us?

Glug glub glug glug?

That's right. Auditorium, ultimatum, aquarium: they're all Latin words!

But what ought we to say instead, O Druid?

Well, "Hall for public performances", "final demand allowing no argument", "glass container for fresh-water or saltwater fish"...

Etcetera, etcetera.

Gderco & Gdercinny
Although strip cartoons tend to be written and drawn to a standard pattern today, in the 1960s and 1970s there was more of a libertarian spirit in them, and they often ignored graphic conventions and logical time schemes. Showing the authors in the company of their own creations was almost obligatory—readers expected and wanted it, and indeed that was one of the reasons for the magical sympathy between readers and authors.

It was in this spirit that René and Albert, like many other writers and illustrators of strip cartoons, invented works of pure fantasy in which they crossed the borders of space and time, and finally revealed the true story of the creation of Asterix.

*The power to make people laugh: from an epigram by Caesar on Terence, the Latin poet.*
A few days ago, two friends who are also colleagues were taking a quiet walk along the seafront in a little harbour town in Brittany.

When...

Look at that!

Ham!

Incredible!

Impossible!

An amazing likeness! What a coincidence!

Considered? Maybe not... let's follow him!
OBELISC'H the Fat
friend of the privateer Robert Surcouf, both of them from St Malo, was told by the Emperor Napoleon, “I am pleased with you and kindly do not eat while I am talking to you.”
scuttling their own ship his enemies said. “We’ve got that sinking feeling again.”

OBELISC'H the Boar
Companion of the king’s corsair René Duguay-Trouin. His disillusioned enemies declared, “Better scuttle our own ship and then scuttle.”

OBELISC'H the Count of Brittany
Famous for winning the First Battle of Marengo (1809). One-handed.

OBELISC'H the Lord of the Manor of the Menhir
Fought in the 100 years’ war with his friend Bertrand du Guesclin. The comment, “These English are crazy!” is attributed to him.

OBELISQUE the Valiant
Covered himself with glory during the Crusades. On his return amazed his friends by eating fourteen boars at a sitting.

OBELISQUE the Hammer
Plastered every enemy he met, fought at Bannockburn under Charles Martel. Led his men into the attack with his famous war cry or “Let’s get them!” It was in vain that he explored the enemy not to run away.

OBELIX Gaulish warrior
Menhir delivery man. Founder of the dynasty.

FAMILY COAT OF ARMS: A Boar Regalant on a Background Sable.

LETS GET THEM LETS GET THEM
How do they think it all up?

August 1993

“What gave you the idea of Asterix?”

“Who writes the story and who does the drawing?”

“You must have been good at Latin at school, weren’t you?”

“Who are you?”

René Goscinny and I were often and regularly asked such questions, and I still have to answer them today, almost forty-five years after our character Asterix was born.

Some of the questions are not quite the same as those we were asked at first. For instance, “Do you actually make a living out of your little so-and-sos?” has become, “Hey, you must earn oodles of boodle with that lot, don’t you?” Well, at least that may be a sign that our job has become more respectable.

And we have always appreciated the elegance, delicacy and attention some readers have shown towards us. Even in the 1960s, we liked responding in our own way in “Pilote”, the thinking person’s strip cartoon magazine, by answering the question of how an idea is born.

Dear readers, on the next page I offer the answer for your mature consideration, asking myself as always the eternal question, “Will they like it?”

Albert Uderzo
The birth of an idea
25 October 1962
Written by René Goscinny
Illustrated by Albert Uderzo

"Pilote", no. 157

BANG! BING! PAAAF! AND THEN... CRAAAACK!

CRAASH! THEN BOOM! AND TCHAC!
HA HA, HA! OH, 455! OH, 455!

AND THEN... PATABOOM!
DREEEEEER! TEEHEEHEE! TEEHEEHEE!

Café de l'Annexe

WOHOHOOHOO! HO, HO! BOF!

THE END

THE END

HA HA HA! HO, HO! TEE HEE HEH!
Vintage Asterix!
14 new stories including tales of:
The day Asterix and Obelix were born (in the middle of a village fish fight);
How Obelix goes back to school;
Fashion in Ancient Gaul;
How Dogmatix helps the village cockerel win a duel;
And how he is adopted as a Roman mascot;
Asterix as you’ve never seen him before;
Obelix’s adventures under the mistletoe;
The bid for the very first Gaulish Olympics;
The birth of an idea – the story of the creation of Asterix;
And much, much more.