What is Asterix?

Asterix is a famous French Comic book, that has been translated into 100+ languages and dialects! (pretty impressive hah?). The first Asterix adventure (Asterix the Gaul) appeared in a magazine called Pilote and from then on, 32 other official Asterix comics have been published. Rene Goscinny wrote the books while Albert Uderzo illustrated them until the death of Goscinny aged 51. Uderzo then carried on the series. As well as the comic books, there have been many spin-offs including movie books, game books, Dogmatix books etc. Asterix is so popular, he even has his own theme park and movies.



Plot

The series is about a village of Gauls that have managed to hold out from the Roman invaders because of their Druid Getafix's Magic Potion. The series concentrates on two Gauls Asterix and his sidekick Obelix (who fell into the magic potion got unlimited superhuman strength when he was a baby) and have many adventures together.

Asterix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Asterix
French Name:	Asterix
Meaning:	"*" (asterisk) or "a star"
Appearance:	Short, yellow whiskers, big nose. Wears winged helmet and a sword and gourd round his belt.
Marital Status:	Bachelor
Occupation:	Village hero
First Appears in:	Asterix the Gaul

The Evolution of Asterix:



You can view more Asterix Images here.

"Asterix, the hero of these adventures . A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix..."

In the front of every Asterix book, Asterix is described as a hero. But is he one? He certainly doesn't look like it - he's tiny, not a muscle on him. Uderzo's original drawings depicted him as a traditional hero type - large and strong, but Goscinny came up with the idea of making him an anti-hero - who relied not on muscles but intelligence.

Asterix isn't all that he is made out to be - for many, he would not be everyone's favourite character. He is the straight man to Obelix's comic. To really get our head around this, let us first look at his personality, at a first glance a description would be this... A caring, brave warrior who likes his food at the best of times.. He is ready to face dangers (except when the dangers are woman) and will do anything for the liberty of his village. The fate of the village has rested on his tiny shoulders more than once.

Nothing bad there, but could this "(except when the dangers are woman)" be an insecurity. In <u>Asterix and the Actress</u> just look at his face when his mother brings all those ladies for tea - he just doesn't want to be there.



Asterix is superficial, always optimistic and happy. He isn't the one who makes us laugh at his antics. On his own he is boring - he just doesn't act like a real person. To me he appears

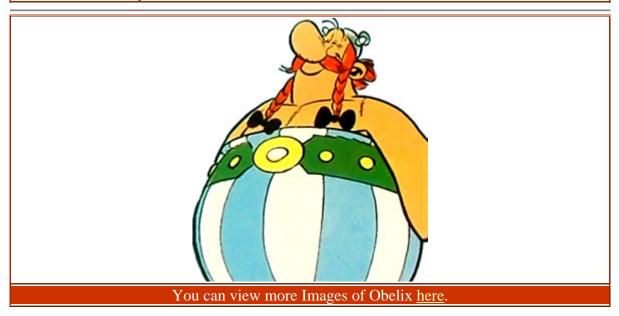
overconfident, too happy, artificial.

Now I'm not knocking Asterix, he is the face of the books, quite literally. Probably one of the best well known in all the characters, if not the most popular.

His best moment? Standing on top of that pedestal, with a 1st wreath in hand at the Olympic Games.

Obelix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Obelix
French Name:	Obelix
Meaning:	 An Obelisk is a typographical dagger (†), used for footnotes and cross references in many books \ An Obelisk is also a tall, four sided stone, similiar to a menhir. Could also mean O+belly+ix
Appearance:	Big nose, red pigtails, whiskers Wears blue & white breeches, small helmet. Large (er - I mean well covered)!
Marital Status:	Bachelor
Occupation:	Menhir Delivery Man
First Appears in:	Asterix the Gaul



"Obelix, Asterix's inseperable freind. 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 Asterix - so long as there's wild boar to eat and plenty of fighting"

Ah yes, everyone knows that fat guy (or should I say well covered?). To actual readers he is the comic relief, the dumb guy who isn't so dumb at all. He knows what he wants from life food and a good fight.

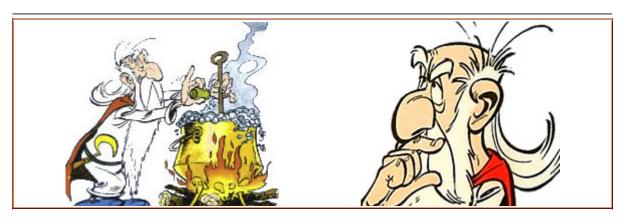
Obelix is an intriguing character. He doesn't act like an adult, he acts if he hasn't grown up. Some say he is stupid. This is not the case at all, he is merely a child at heart. This is what makes him so darn funny! Giving a simple, yet comical view on the current happenings. He does, admittedly quite often feels left out when nobody bothers to explain what is going on.

But it is funny, that when Obelix was returned to childhood in <u>Asterix & Obelix all at Sea</u>, he acted almost adult!

Of course, no review of Obelix would be complete with the subject of his super strength, and him not being able to have a single drop more of Magic Potion (which he of course fell into when he was a little boy)

Getafix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Getafix
Meaning:	Get a Fix
French Name:	Panoramix
Appearance:	A long white bushy beard with a balding head. Red cape and white Druid's uniform and finally blue shoes. It is said the colours he wears is based on the French Flag.
Marital Status:	Bachelor (Druid's don't marry)
Occupation:	The village druid, Member of the Village Council and sometimes school teacher
First Appears in:	Asterix the Gaul



You can view more Images of Getafix here.

"Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His specialty is the potion which gives superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve."

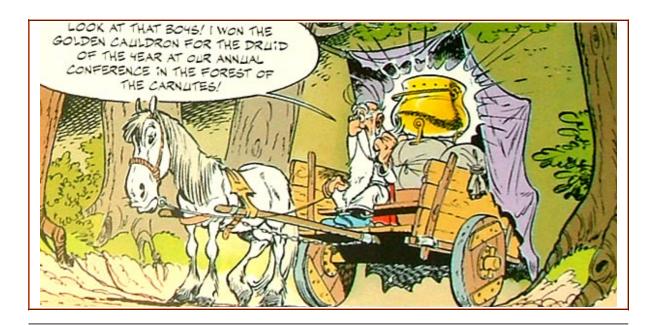
Without Getafix the village of "indomitable" Gauls would have been conquered long ago. If it wasn't for Getafix Asterix would be a tramp begging for food to feed his frail body and Obelix - he would be a Roman Menhir Delivery man.

Getafix is my favorite character - I don't know why, he just is.

It would seem that Getafix is the most famous of the Druids. Not just for his amazing magic potion, but for his knowledge. In Asterix and the Big Fight, the druid Psychoanalytix said "Getafix? Dear old Getafix who taught us everything we know? Getafix who has secrets known only to himself?" From what this druid says, it would seem that Getafix started the whole "druid" sect.



But if this was true, why isn't he the "head" druid as seen in Asterix and the Goths? Maybe he just wanted his life to be simpler. Getafix has won druid of the year many a time. Winning a Golden Menhir and Golden Cauldron among many things. Don't ask me what a menhir has got to do with the druid occupation....



Before Goscinny died, Getafix 's other <u>potions</u> remained a mystery. It wasn't until Uderzo's solo books that the full extent of Getafix's power was realised. As he himself so rightly puts it in <u>Asterix and the Actress</u> "I may have invented a Potion which gives superhuman strength, and another which turns them into granite and makes them revert to childhood, but do you expect me to work miracles?"

No Getafix, we don't.

Vitalstatistix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Vitalstatistix
French Name:	Abraracourcix
Meaning:	Fully Automatic.
Appearance:	Vital statistics (refering to his rather big waistline, but not as well covered as Obelix's of course;)
Marital Status:	Married to Impedimenta
Occupation:	Village Chief
First Appears in:	Asterix the Gaul



You can view more images here.

"Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, 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 will fall on his head tomorrow.

But as he says, tomorrow never comes."

Vitalstatistix is one proud Gaulish chief... too proud you could say... up himself even!

Take "Asterix in Belgium" for instance. The Romans quote Julius Caesar as saying that the Belgians are the bravest of all the Gaulish peoples. Vitalstatistix, hearing this got all angry and decided to go to Belgium all on his own to prove that his people were the bravest.

He was probably very put out that the Belgians could destroy Roman Camps WITHOUT the magic potion.

Deep down Vitalstatistix is very insecure, constantly worrying that his "Little Piggywiggy" would desert him and go back to her brother Homeopathix (whom Vitalstatistix hates) in Lutetia.

It almost appears that he and his wife have a love-hate relationship although it is apparent they love each other very much.

In the first Asterix adventures, Vitalstatistix was portrayed as this two-dimensional, wise chief. It wasn't until Asterix and the Big Fight that his real character was able to blossom.

To round off this review of Vitalstatistix, I must write one of my favorite quotes which says it all about Vitalstatistix. Impedimenta said "Whoever would be fool enough to write the story of our village would not call it the adventures of Vitalstatistix the Gaul!" Need I say more?

Cacofonix Info

Vital Statistics:		
Name:	Cacofonix	
French Name:	Assurancetourix	
Meaning:	Cacophony (a bad din)	
Appearance:	Very skinny with a long nose. His hair, although blonde (white, red, blue in some books) could be likened to another muscian, this one more recent, Elvis. Blue and white checqured shirt and white britches.	
Marital Status:	Batchelor (obviously.)	
Occupation:	Bard/muscian/nuisance and sometime school teacher	
First Appears in:	Asterix the Gaul	



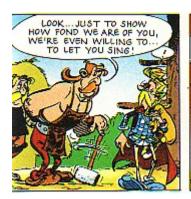
You can view more Cacofonix Images here,

"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...."

Cacofonix - a misunderstood genus or a misguided fool? It seems that there is only a select few who like his music, and those few don't like it for its musical qaulity. Cacofonix's singing taught the Normans true fear (and it allowded them to fly) and his ability for his singing to cause rain, helped save the Indian Princess Orinjade from beheading. Why does Cacofonix insist in living in a village where he is misunderstood and attacked, just because of his persistance to sing?

Cacofonix and Fauliautomatix have a very strange friendship. Faulioutmatix punches Cacofonix every time he starts singing, but Faulioutomatix wants him to sing... At the end of Asterix and the Magic Carpet, Faulioutomatix was feeling lonely because Cacofonix wasn't around. How much do the village respect Cacofonix? As Getafix put it "He's an excellent sort when he doesn't sing". When Cacofonix announced he was leaving the village in

Asterix and the Secret Weapon, the whole village gathered to beg Cacofonix to stay. Faulioutomatix was even willing to let him sing...





So what is it about Cacofonix's singing voice that makes it so detestible? Right from the start it was out of tune and HORRIBLE! What is interesting to note though is that Cacofonix is a competant muscian, he played the fiddle with no qualms in <u>Asterix the Gaul</u>, the lyre in Asterix and the Normans, and conducted the invited bards in Asterix and the Actress.

In <u>Asterix and the Magic Carpet</u>, Cacofonix's fame had reached new heights - already famous for scaring out the spectators in Asterix the Gladiator and all the residants in the block of flats in The Mansions of Gods - now his voice angered the Gods so much that it started to rain whenever he sang.





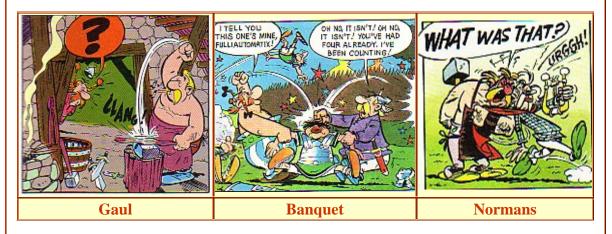
Fulliautomatix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Fulliautomatix
French Name:	Cetautomatix
Meaning:	Fully Automatic.
Appearance:	A big, strong, macho, fiery redhead/blonde (depends which book you're reading). Never seen without a hammer.
Marital Status:	Married to his wife Mrs Fulliautomatix (obviously)
Occupation:	Village Blacksmith (also a antique dealer in <u>The Mansions of the Gods</u>)
First Appears in:	Asterix the Gaul



You can view more Fulliautomatix images here.

Fulliautomatix has been around since the first book - sort of. His name appeared in <u>Asterix</u> the <u>Gaul</u>, but the man attributed to that name looked nothing like his later reincarnation. His name appeared again in <u>Asterix the Banquet</u>. It wasn't until <u>Asterix and the Normans</u> that we saw the real Fulliautomatix emerge.



Fulliautomatix is the village bully. Constantly picking on Unhygenix, Cacofonix or Geriatrix, although with Geriatrix he can't bash him - it wouldn't be right to bash a senior citizen, which really annoys Geriatrix, who demands equal treatment.

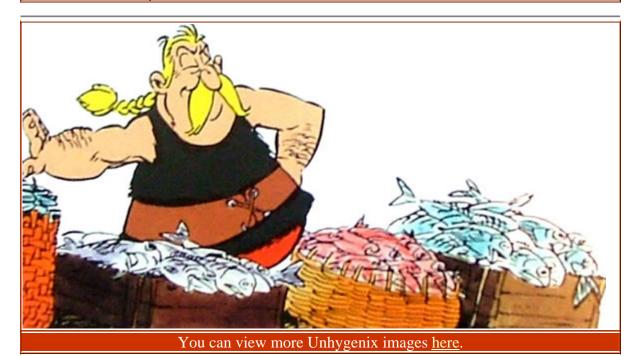
The rivalry he shares with Unhygenix is a strange thing. They are abusing each other at every term, and Fulliautomatix is always making nasty remarks - usually dealing with the subject of Unhygenix's fish. However, they are always seen together, and despite appearances they are in fact friends (although friends that maintain their relationship by abusing each other).

Fulliautomatix's relationship with Cacofonix is even stranger. Fulliautomatix **HATES** Cacofonix singing, but he **WANTS** Cacofonix to sing, even if it is just so he can have the pleasure of bashing people.

Fulliautomatix is the village blacksmith, and can forge iron with his bare hands (but only after taking the magic potion). He likes to emulate the tough "macho" image. The only thing that can break his image is wife, the seemingly only person that can get him down (see Asterix and the Secret Weapon).

Unhygenix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Unhygenix
Meaning:	Unhygienic (dirty, unsanitary)
French Name:	Ordralfabétix
Appearance:	Yellow moustache and pig tail. Chubby.
Marital Status:	Married to his wife Bacteria
Occupation:	Village Fishmonger
First Appears in:	Asterix in Spain



Unhygenix first appeared in Asterix in Spain when Asterix needed to buy some fish, and along with him came the village fishfight.

Fulliautomatix swears that Unhygenix's fish isn't fresh. Whether it is or not is debatable - he always has the village woman lining up outside his shop prepared to buy his produce. However, the fish probably does go off quite a lot, for as we learn in Asterix and the Great Crossing, instead of going fishing in the sea next to the village, Unhygenix gets his fish bought in by ox-cart from Lutetia, as you never know where fish caught from the sea have

The rivalry he shares with Fulliautomatix is a strange thing. They are abusing each other at every term. However, they are always seen together, and despite appearances they are in fact friends (although friends that maintain their relationship by abusing each other).

Geriatrix Info

Vital Statistics:	
Name:	Geriatrix
French Name:	Agecanconix
Meaning:	Geriatrics, old.
Appearance:	Short, grey whiskers and hair. White breeches and Dark Blue top.
Marital Status:	Married to Mrs Geriatrix.
Occupation:	Village Elder
First Appears in:	Asterix at the Olympic Games



Geriatrix is the only character in the Asterix books of whom we know their age. He is 93 years young, I say "young" because although he looks very old, he doesn't act very old at all!

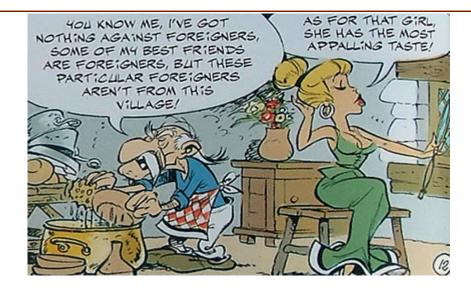
He is always ready to fight, even without the magic potion, like the time he fought at the battle of Alesia (which the Gauls incedentally lost). He takes an active interest in politics, dancing, drinking and the LADIES.

So popular in fact that he is married to the most beautiful of them all - Mrs Geriatrix.

Don't ask me why Mrs Geriatrix would marry Geriatrix. Maybe she likes older men, maybe she had been brainwashed, or maybe (dare I say it) looks don't matter!

You see Geriatrix, although he tries to emulate a "tough battler" image, is a nice guy.

Who else would be prepared to do the dishes while the wife is out at parties?



Who else would be prepared to give up a good punch up because he might catch a cold?

Who else would give foriegners a go because his wife tells him to?

Or maybe he just really likes his wife...







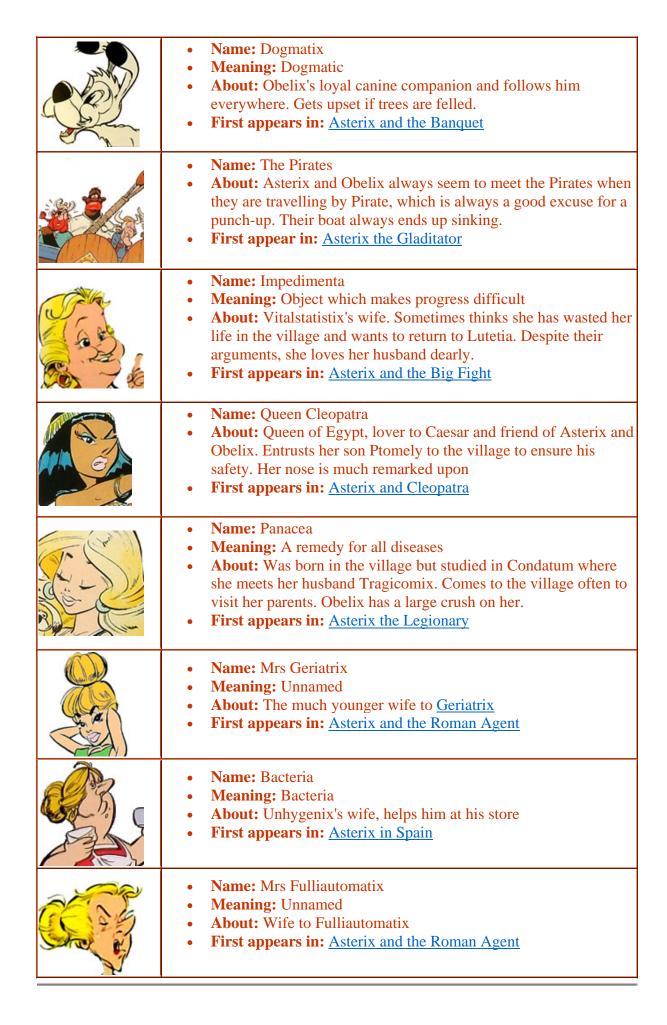
Geriatrix first properly appeared in <u>Asterix at the Olympic Games</u>. Before then there were some old villagers but they had never been given a name. We immdeiently see him warming up to the Greek Girls (see what he gets up to without his wife around?) and making elaborate excuses as to why Asterix wasn't winning.

Since then, Geriatrix has been a welcome addition to the Asterix universe.

Secondary Characters



- Name: Gaius Julius Caesar
- **About:** The Roman General who conquered Gaul, now ruler of Rome. Aims to finally conquer the Gaulish village that still holds out against him.
- **First appears in:** Asterix the Gaul
- Find out More: Julius Caesar Bio and Schemes



- 1. Asterix the Gaul WATER
- 2. Asterix and the Golden Sickle
- 3. Asterix and the Goths
- 4. Asterix the Gladiator
- 5. Asterix and the Banquet WATER
- 6. Asterix and Cleopatra
- 7. Asterix and the Big Fight Walter
- 8. Asterix in Britain
- 9. Asterix and the Normans
- 10. Asterix the Legionary
- 11. Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield
- 12. Asterix at the Olympic Games
- 13. Asterix and the Cauldron
- 14. Asterix in Spain
- 15. Asterix and the Roman Agent
- 16. Asterix in Switzerland
- 17. Asterix and the Mansions of the Gods

- 18. Asterix and the Laurel Wreath Weath
- 19. Asterix and the Soothsayer
- 20. Asterix in Corsica
- 21. Asterix and Caesar's Gift
- 22. Asterix and the Great Crossing
- 23. Obelix and Co
- 24. Asterix in Belgium
- 25. Asterix and the Great Divide III
- 26. Asterix and the Black Gold
- 27. Asterix and Son
- 28. Asterix and the Magic Carpet
- 29. Asterix and the Secret Weapon
- 30. Asterix and Obelix all at Sea
- 31. Asterix and the Actress
- 32. Asterix and the Class Act
- 33. Asterix and the Falling Sky