

nnewspaper, Brigitte Bardot explains why she has emerged

rights, a crusade which this week sees her World Festival for

to her and examines the life of a sex kitten turned tigress

The subject has scarcely e news since.

sses at every turn that she ed on the screen only for e never liked the cinema, id calls it "a métier of engaging honesty she also no fun to go in front of the and show how I look now. turn. I am not an actress am myself and I do it only of alarm.'

ame reasons, perhaps, uses her name and image e dodges the press and not to face an interviewer n described and dissected. ne, the disembodied voice husky with a sense of ncy; it could belong to a very old woman. She will ions only about her work and this she does with all nd directness of a child or a

ire getting worse and ays. "It is a painful, terriy. When I think of what r, I cry and cry. I cry so ot understand why a civilcan allow such cruelty." e no satisfaction in any s or response because s so much more to do.

ad some success with the it there are still poachers rance or Britain people ory, there is always Japan

the tears, there is much entimentality behind her After I stopped making k two years to reflect and e then I have devoted my ls — but I had to learn and I have studied hard." nentors is Jacques Cous-als her affectionately "a

in her to be Teresa of d he may ht.

ecame so er her film g away at e, her Stwith an f dogs and nat people l her ''Bri-Her lovers pped comg and she ed by the he ageing, ve-hungry y with the hair and ans

ip because said she it 40 — she ared much

think that one will one day look like an old map of France," she has said.

Bravely, she stuck to her decision and left the myth more or less intact. But her passing years, unrecorded on celluloid, have been marked by the press like milestones for a generation: Bardot at 30, 40, 45, 50 and now 55. The hedonistic, hoydenish memory she left fades slowly and a little painfully.

Her growing commitment to the cause of animals — their rights, welfare and conservation — was at first dismissed as an extension of childish love of furry pets. Pictures of her in 1977 with baby seals in the Arctic were deemed cute, but when she persisted with less cuddlesome species, she began to be regarded as part crank, part melodramatic pasionaria, overcompensating for her failure to come to terms with the human race, especially the male of the species.

Her son Nicolas, born of her brief marriage to actor Jacques Charrier, is now approaching 30. Bardot's lack of maternal interest in him when he was small shocked some people. She has always maintained that had he been a girl she would have brought the child up herself, but "it was better for a boy to be close to his father". Mother and son later became good friends, but see each other rarely because he lives in Oslo with his beautiful blonde wife Annelina and their three-year-old daughter. Michelle. The rôle of grandmère does not, however, seem to appeal to Bardot any more than that of mother. "I love a Norwegian and my mother loves baby seals," Nicolas has been quoted as saying good-humouredly.

Her private life is guarded by her own discretion and the high fences around her properties — La Madrague and at Bazoches, not far from Paris, where she now spends most of the time. She lives alone, with the help of caretakers and a few close friends who come and go. But ger once predicted that the solitude is dispersed by the menag-



New image: Bardot at 55, presenter of SOS Animaux, her conservation programme

erie of more than 100 animals she keeps at the two houses.

There are about 40 wild or wildish cats in St-Tropez (some descended from Colette's pets of more than 50 years ago), a cacophony of barking dogs (mostly of uncertain ancestry, to say the least), a mare, a donkey and some goats. "When I hear of an animal in trouble I try to take it in," she says. "I have a lot of animals." The well-tended animal cemetery at the back of her house remembers past pets. Sometimes her charity backfires as in the case of Charly, her neighbour's donkey which she agreed to keep this summer while his owner was on holiday.

It is rather a relief to hear of a creature that proved too much for Bardot: 'I had no idea that he would turn out such an expensive and stubborn ani-mal," she says. The trouble began when Charly, ignoring the charms of the

female ass, Mimosa, took fancy to his hostess's 32-yea Bardot was frantic: Charly's if allowed to proceed, would to such an old lady. Bardot h on the property to separate and she could not conta owner. So, on advice from she had the ardent bear under anaesthetic. Charly to mind too much, but his enraged and the story was of great ribaldry in St-Trop[mer. Bardot is appalled by incident was reported.

From the outset, Brigittes personality than a perform she claims to play her reals she was not doing much else Vadim saw, that was her was the first actress to play It's generally believed that Brigitte. But it is precisely gitte was not the product c imagination that not her p society nor her profession a deepest nature, and that she shock, seduce, create a new explode in the world as a sex

The story of the ingénue wh from the bourgeois shadows Paris to symbolise the sexua an age has been told and began with a teenage roma dark stranger (Vadim) and mixed catalogue of 48 films, riages, one child, suicide at a constant attendant rout o Men fantasised, women c look is still not dead.

Why little Mlle Bardo another is an unanswerabl In America it was Monroe, i happened to be Bardot, a Occupation. BB is usually terms of her prime and her n immediate past history of f and her family background more relevant. Born in 1 was only six when France f at the Liberation. The trau invaded and occupied prob more, consciously, to her band Roger Vadim than to I lived a protected and affluen daughter of an industriali

> legacy was led a strict tured life, or she and her unforgettabl for some m our, aged ni respectively forbidden to parents "tu" 'I felt as if I parents." B years later.

In spite of matured in where free exploding, ists were in and all, for seemed righ world. At 1, she was on t Elle, and d dim's eve a him, fellov Marc Alléo

'In the game of love, she is both hunter and prey'





