

Lucille Bogan (born **Lucile Anderson**; April 1, 1897 – August 10, 1948) was an American classic female blues singer and songwriter, among the first to be recorded. She also recorded under the pseudonym Bessie Jackson. Lucille was one of 'the big three of the blues', along with Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith.



Lucille Bogan

She was involved in prostitution and bootlegging. She married/lived with at least one man. She insisted on being a woman, free, black, and herself; in a society constrained by the oppression of whites, and the male chauvinism of both race. Like Charlie Patton from the Mississippi Delta she was her own person and did her own 'thing' against seemingly, insurmountable odds.

We have been unable to featured her as one of our 'Featured artist of the week' simply because, although she was indeed one of the great blues artists of the 1920' many of her songs are so sexually explicit or at least laced with innuendo as to be improper, if not illegal, to play on radio. The often seen description, a phrase coined to describe Lucille - 'A dirty blues' artist is an understatement.

By 1930, her songs tended to concern drinking and sex, such as 'Sloppy Drunk Blues' She also recorded the original version of 'Black Angel Blues', which (as 'Sweet Little Angel') was covered, heavily edited by B. B. King and many others. With her experience in some of the rowdier juke joints of the 1920s, many of her songs, most of which she wrote herself, have thinly veiled and in many cases humorous sexual references.

She first recorded vaudeville songs in New York in 1923, with the pianist Henry Callens. Later that year she recorded 'Pawn Shop Blues' in Atlanta, this was the

first time a black blues singer had been recorded outside New York or Chicago.



Walter Roland

In 1933, she returned to New York, and, apparently to conceal her identity, began recording as Bessie Jackson. At this time, she was usually accompanied on piano by Walter

Roland, with whom she recorded over 100 songs between 1933 and 1935.

Bogan's Birmingham Busters

Her recording career came to an abrupt end in 1935, she then reverted back to her real name and managed her son's (Nazareth Bogan Jr) jazz group, Bogan's Birmingham Busters, she appeared and sang with the band but never recorded with them. They're arguably most well known track '*She Caught the Boat*' is still catalogued and available.



[Bogan's Birmingham Busters](#)

After this last foray into the music business she moved to Los Angeles shortly before her death from coronary sclerosis in 1948.

In 2022, she was posthumously inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. The citation noted that she recorded some of the most memorable blues songs of the pre-World War II era, including some that were landmarks in blues and some that continue to sensationalise her reputation decades after her death.

As a foot note, there is no prudishness intended on our part. To avoid offending readers / listeners or infringement of broadcasting legislation we refrain from playing her songs.

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