

BLUES SINGER, PIANIST

Gladys Bentley

Gladys Bentley (known as Bobbie Minton on stage) was a prominent figure during the Harlem Renaissance, being one of the most successful Black performers, and likely the most prominent lesbian figure, in the 1920s-30s. Bentley was known for dressing in her iconic black-and-white tuxedo, with a top hat and singing blues standards, adding her own raunchy lyrics and adlibs. She was one of the pioneers of challenging gender stereotypes, pushing the boundaries of gender and sexuality through her music and performance.

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