

Lillian Briggs

Briggs, Lillian “Tiger Lil”, born Lillian Biggs Kistler, married name Lillian Biggs Winograd (1933–1998). American jazz trombonist and rock and roll singer. Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Lillian Briggs joined Joy Cayler’s All-Girl Orchestra in 1952 as trombonist and singer. She began appearing nationally later that year in performances sponsored by Alan Freed and Jack Petrill who, in 1954, secured a recording contract for Briggs with Epic Records. Her first recording was her greatest hit, John Hendricks’s “I Want You to Be My Baby” (1955)—it sold over a million copies and peaked at number 18 on the Billboard charts—and in that same year, she appeared on The Tonight Show hosted by Steve Allen where she sang her signature tune and played a chorus on trombone. In 1956, she was billed as “The Queen of Rock and Roll” while performing in Sydney, Australia; this was the same year that Elvis Presley was dubbed “The King of Rock and Roll.” Lillian Briggs played the trombone in most of her live concerts, and she was always identified with the instrument, but she soloed on only one of her many commercial singles (she never recorded an album), “Hey-Ba-Ba-Re-Bop” (1958). Briggs was featured in the movie The Ladies Man (1961) starring Jerry Lewis; she is shown playing trombone at the beginning of the film’s big production number, although her trombone playing was ghosted by Hoyt Bohannon. In 1976, Lillian Briggs quit show business and embarked on a highly successful second career as a real estate developer.

From:
International Trombone
Association
Honorary Life Members