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Beautiful Dreamer

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Even at 32 years old, Justine and the Victorian Punks' "[Beautiful Dreamer](#)" sounds relevant to the point of trend-setting. And it's fitting that the DFA team has decided to reissue the song as a 12" single. The entire DFA aesthetic is here: the tight but airy groove, the subtle and decidedly un-flashy drum fills, the prominent bassline, the gradual and almost imperceptible arc toward a thrilling conclusion. The song is certainly strange, but it's proof that like a hip hop beat or a dub riddim, disco is more of a template than a genre. But let Peter Gordon, whose Love of Life Orchestra provided the backing track, set you straight: "if you could keep that groove going, then you can do whatever you want on top of it." In this case, Gordon has gently placed the angelic cooings of a topless Justine (who, incidentally, was a Tunisian-born Frenchwoman named Colette Maison Lumiere who held a funeral for herself at the legendary Mudd Club before being reborn as Justine). And while Justine's cadence is endearingly wonky, there are plenty of appealing aspects to the song: the sparkling champagne horns and the subtle synthesizer work that burps and bubbles, percolates and pops.

There's something almost elemental about the sound of this record, almost as if it's part of indie rock's DNA. While there's no real indication that this had an immediate and direct influence on anyone, it's nice to see that some of this decade's most vital sounds have an historical antecedent.