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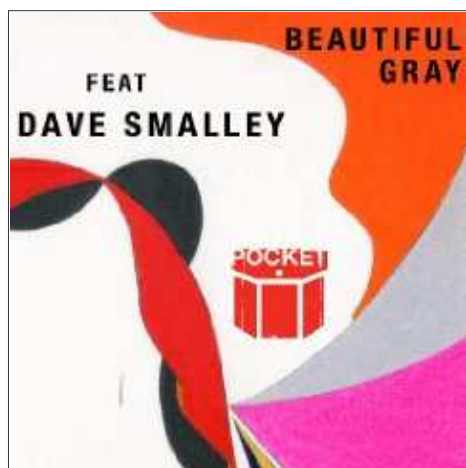
POCKET – SINGLES (24 HOUR SERVICE STATION)

by Michael Toland

21 December 2009



RICHARD JANOVICH's day jobs include being a member of **BURNSIDE PROJECT** and a remixer to the stars (**RADIOHEAD, BECK, KRISTEN HERSH, OF MONTREAL**). As **POCKET**, he proffers his own electro-pop tunes sung by famous friends. "Surround Him With Love" puts **ROBYN HITCHCOCK** into a psychedelic synth-cloud as eccentric as he is. "Beautiful Gray" features **DAVE SMALLEY** in an electro dance context as far away as you can get from **DOWN BY LAW** and **DAG NASTY** without being classical music, and it works at least as well as any of **BOB MOULD's** similar experiments. **ASOBI SEKSU's YUKI CHIKUDATE** joins Janovich on "Sampo" for an ethereal pop tune, while **SHUDDER TO THINK's CRAIG WEDREN** picks up the baton for the quirky, guitar-driven "Someone to Run Away From." The highlight is "Hear In Noiseville," in which **STEVE KILBEY of THE CHURCH** adds his narcotic croon to the kind of acid-soaked electronica that he himself might dabble in on his solo records.



Each CD-single comes with a B-side and a handful of remixes. Frankly, I've rarely had any use for the latter, but the B's, which feature lesser-known names but not lesser talents, are worthy additions to the Pocket canon. Particularly impressive is the glorious pop tune "Let Her Close Her Eyes," starring **SHONALI BHOWMIK of TIGERS AND MONKEYS**, though the soaring pulse of "Swept" with **LORAIN LELIS (MAHOGANY)** and the buzzing romance of

"Break Your Heart Wildly" with **KIMI RECOR (LILOFEE)** achieve grandeur as well. (The Smalley and Wedren songs are each other's B-sides. Or A-sides. Whatever.)

The remarkable thing is Janovich's ability to work his singers' distinct personalities into his mixes, accentuating their unique qualities without simply aping their usual musical settings. With singles coming up featuring **TANYA DONNELLY, SLIM MOON**, author **RICK MOODY** and, incredibly, **MARK BURGESS**, Pocket has a bright future ahead of invigorating the electronic pop scene.

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