

August 20, 2020
For Immediate Release

Listen to Dan Deacon’s Original Score for *Well Groomed*, Out Today via Domino Soundtracks

[Watch “Adriane in Wonderland” Video](#)



(*Well Groomed* Original Score Cover Artwork)

On the heels of his fifth studio album *Mystic Familiar*, Baltimore-based musician **Dan Deacon** returns with an original score to HBO documentary *Well Groomed*, out today on **Domino Soundtracks**. Directed by **Rebecca Stern**, *Well Groomed* immerses the viewer in the colorful and surreal subculture of competitive creative dog grooming, following the lives of four dog owners who are challenging the definition of art.

Deacon’s score for *Well Groomed* is the latest addition to his collaborative repertoire, which includes soundtracks for films *Rat Film* (2017) and *Time Trial* (2018) as well as works with the NYCBallet, LA Phil, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. As song titles like “Snip Snip” and “Jurassic Bark” suggest, the resulting music unmistakably springs from the imagination of

the same Dan Deacon that gave us “When I Was Done Dying” and “Sat by a Tree.” From Vangelis-inspired soundscapes (“Creative Sunday”) to Krautrock-influenced anthems (“Adriane in Wonderland”), the *Well Groomed* soundtrack channels the ecstatic energy of Deacon’s legendary live shows more than any of his film work to date.

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“Adriane in Wonderland” Video Still

In navigating his way into a world where prizes are awarded for going against conventional beauty standards and transforming dogs into flamboyant living art objects, Deacon developed an affinity for its creative groomers—or folk artists, as he sees them. “*To me, Well Groomed is about being an artist making art that you find beautiful and fascinating while living in a world where few share those feelings, and making art that you know those outside of your small community may laugh at or condemn. I connected to the sheer euphoria of finding one's artistic voice and a community to grow that voice with,*” says Deacon. Director Stern elaborates, “*Part of the soul of the film is the blending of reality and fantasy—between the women's art, their hopes, their dogs, and the realities of daily living. Dan's music melted that line in a vibrant and unexpected way.*”

The lighter tone and largely upbeat subject matter of *Well Groomed* offered Deacon an opportunity to compose with more playful tones and organic instrumentation not usually found in his work. Setting aside the digitally driven player-piano and robotic drums central to *Mystic Familiar*, Deacon hand-picked a quintet of gifted improvisers, some of whom have

appeared before in Deacon's discography—pianist **M.C. Schmidt** from experimental duo **Matmos**, vibraphonist **Rich O'Meara**, and guitarist **Steve Strohmeier**. Deacon recorded each player in isolation so he could later chop up and recombine any single-instrument phrase like a sample. Like the documentary it soundtracks, the *Well Groomed* score conjures a vivid swath of Americana, brimming with rainbows of braided fur and the wide-eyed spontaneity of a newborn puppy.

Well Groomed is available to stream exclusively on [HBO](#). The 88-minute theatrical cut is available on [DVD](#) and for digital purchase on [iTunes](#), [Vimeo](#), and other platforms.

[Pre-order Limited Edition LP](#)

***Well Groomed Original Score* Tracklist:**

1. Snip Snip
2. Adriane in Wonderland
3. Super Zoo
4. Overwhelmed
5. When They're In Color
6. Creative Sunday
7. Ira
8. Jurassic Bark
9. Adriane's Lament
10. A Perfect Coat
11. Nicole Will Take Over The Shop
12. Scissors Down
13. Maybe It Was (The Baby Dinosaur)
14. Dog On A Swingset

Stream & Purchase *Well Groomed* -

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[Download hi-res images and jpegs of Dan Deacon](#)



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