

A BRIEF HISTORY

Pantheon Projects began as a London (Canada) and Winnipeg-based performance collective — titled ArtLaunch Theatre Company — whose mandate was to create professional-grade independent theatre using emerging technologies as storytelling devices, focusing on the development of plays by young-in-craft, queer-feminist creators about the impact of digital technologies on human relationships. The collective was founded and co-directed by playwright/multidisciplinary performance maker Camille Intson and New York based creative producer, Rafaella Rosenberg. In the three years that ArtLaunch was active (2016-2018), the company workshoped and premiered two critically acclaimed four-star shows on the Fringe circuit: 2017's *The Stock* (“uniformly excellent... rewards multiple viewings... not a moment is wasted, not a moment unnecessary” - Winnipeg Free Press) and 2018's *The Last 48* (“makes comedy gold out of its high concept, pseudo-dystopic premise” - CBC Manitoba). These shows included live and pre-recorded video feeds, artificially intelligent speech and voice generators, and technical elements being activated onstage by the performers. Our works were heavily inspired by feminist and “post-feminist” discourse post-#MeToo, the media coverage of the Jian Ghomeshi scandal (and other similar accounts), and public debates around artificially intelligent labour and robots in the workplace. The collective was also established as a frequent collaborator with the Winnipeg-based organization ‘Upside Down Tree’, for which we created immersive theatrical political performances in fundraising support of Rainbow Railroad — an organization dedicated to help 2SLGBTQIA+ persons escape state-sponsored violence. Our actors and collaborators were recent graduates of theatre programs across Canada, as well as international graduates from institutions across Europe and the United States.

Pantheon Projects emerged as ArtLaunch’s experimental faction in late 2018 under Intson’s sole direction. It has since become an award-winning productions collective, home to a diverse range of interdisciplinary projects ranging from multidisciplinary theatrical works to digital media and visual arts pieces, championed by young queer-feminist, female, trans and non binary artists and 2SLGBTQIA+ artists of colour. In its first year of operation, *Pantheon* premiered an interdisciplinary feminist-materialist installation “Objects: London, Portrait of a City” (as Resident Artist/Company at TAP Centre for Creativity; London, Ontario), and the multi award-winning play *We All Got Lost* (2021 Playwrights’ Guild of Canada Robert Beardsley Award; 2019 Hamilton Fringe Best of Fringe, Best of Venue, and New Play Contest Winner). In late 2019 and early 2020, the collective premiered a trilogy of “Instagram Plays” and conducted a London (England)-based workshop of “The Romantics”, a queer-feminist retelling of the lives and loves of the Pre-Raphaelite muses. In June of 2020, *Pantheon* premiered two interdisciplinary projects in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine: *betweenspace* (Shortlisted for the 2021 New Media Prize; premiered at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama’s Brink Festival) and “INTERMISSIONS: Works for a New World”, an interdisciplinary digital media gallery created by out-of-work artists in quarantine. The latter project received worldwide submissions and attention, and engaged a slew of queer and trans artists, and artists of colour, across the globe. Since then, the collective has focused its efforts on the writing and development of *JANE*, which has been in the process from 2021-22.