

Planningtorock Biography, 2016

Jam Rostron is the Bolton-born, Berlin-based music producer behind the multimedia recording and performance project Planningtorock.

A classically trained violinist who began playing at age eight, Rostron moved from Bolton, Lancashire, to Berlin. The Planningtorock persona first surfaced in 2002, after moving from London to Berlin, when she began performing at the city's clubs. In 2004, she launched her first Berlin-based label Rostron Records with Planningtorock's EP *Eins*, following it in 2005 with a compilation LP *Carousel of Souls* that featured songs from *The Knife* and *The Soft Pink Truth*, and then releasing her much anticipated debut album "Have It All" in 2006.

In 2010, Planningtorock collaborated with *The Knife* and Mount Sims to write an opera for the Danish performance group *Hotel Pro Forma*. The opera, titled *Tomorrow, In a Year*, is based on Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. *Tomorrow, In a Year* was later released on 9 March 2010, by *Brille Records / Mute Records*. During the same year Rostron worked as the sound designer and composer for the Bruce LaBruce film *The Bad Breast; or, The Strange Case of Theda*.

After touring with *LCD Soundsystem*, Planningtorock released a second critically acclaimed studio album 'W', via *DFA Records* in 2011. The album included a cover of Arthur Russell's song "Janine." Her most recent album 'All Love's Legal' was released in 2014, it is both an extension of her previous work and a refinement and of its ideas and sonics. Planningtorock has always incorporated politics into her music, but this is by far her most explicitly political record yet. Rostron officially changed her first name to the more androgynous Jam (formerly Janine), reflecting the album's manifesto for transnational gender equality. 'All Love's Legal' was released on Rostron's own *Human Level Records* label, which Planningtorock founded to provide a wider platform for female talent.

Rostron has recently been working with with Berlin-based friends *Olof Dreijer* (of *The Knife*), *Hermione Frank* (AKA *Roxymore*) and *Paula Temple*, as part of the 'Decon Recon' project, under the *Aquarian Jugs* pseudonym. Planningtorock also continues to collaborate with *Peaches*, and co-wrote the song 'Free Drink Ticket' featured on *Peaches'* recent 'Rub' album.

Planningtorock is the scholarship holder of *Musicboard Berlin's* 3-months residency at the *Villa Aurora L.A.* in 2016.

Praise for 'All Love's Legal'...

'The Healthiest thing to have happened in music ages, and a ravishing listen from start to finish.
Perfect **10/10 VICE**

'An album packed with undeniable - if slightly unhinged pop hooks' **Mercury Recommends**

'Lyrically and musically, as remarkable an album as you'll hear all of 2014' **** **Q**

'A brave and pertinent attack on an issue so regularly ignored in dance music today, 'All Love Is Legal' is both wistful and unwavering in its exploration; a challenging, at times chaotic listen that's as enjoyable as it is playfully experimental.' **8.5/10 DJ Mag**

'With no twee gimmicks, vibrant colour and bold substance are present in spades, resulting in an album that's nothing short of a masterclass in left-of-centre dance music' **9/10 Mixmag**

'Highly unique... "Human Drama" is a prime piece of heartbreak disco...A highly complex thing that needs care and attention, only then do you realize we have been offered Rostron's heart on a plate.' **The Line of Best Fit**

'Album Of The Week' **8/10 Loud & Quiet**

'Hooks galore, but embedded in brilliantly strange music' **** **Resident Advisor**

'In 2014, the simplest messages are often the most urgent ones...Rostron's musical work, a kind of art-house house, has always been a smart platform for direct intentions. Despite the sparse instrumentation and arrangement, Rostron's songs evoke huge, cavernous spaces' **7.5 Pitchfork**

'Perhaps the most positive creation to see release this year' 'Top Ten Albums of the Month' **Dazed & Confused**

'It's a fun record, and as adventurous as we've come to expect from Planningtorock'
8/10 Clash Mag

'A clear, plain-speaking, and optimistic new full-length' **Dummy 'Album of the Week'**

'A blur of house and electronica that proves even feminism seminars can get you dancing.'
The Guardian

Praise for 'W' ...

"Album of the Month" 10/10 **VICE**

"Utterly entrancing" 5/5 **Attitude**

"Truly striking" **Mojo**

"Just call her Bolton's answer to Grace Jones" **The Guardian**

"one of the most thrillingly original long players in recent memory." 4/5 **Resident Advisor**

"Planningtorock's spine-tingling electronic avant-pop deserves to be muscling the boys out of the way" **Word**

"An enthralling listen from a compelling artist prepared to push the unorthodox" 8/10 **Clash**

"...A deeply imaginative and genuinely distinctive record" 4/5 **The Skinny**

"A masterpiece of art pop experimentalism." 8/10 **NME**

"Her work is a unique beast, a beguiling, unpredictable hybrid." **i-D Magazine**

"Gloriously weird, like early-'80s electro-disco re-imagined by The Knife's Karin Dreijer" **Q**

"Each track is a personal piece of her, an intimate letter that she's sharing with you." 4/5 **Electronic Beats**

"A pulsing, avant-electronica that looks back to No Wave and early Laurie Anderson" **Uncut**

"W is a profoundly, brilliantly strange album ... while still managing to achieve pop perfection." **The Quietus**

"W is just amazing" 4.5/5 **The Fly**