



For immediate release

## Anthony Williams' *Urban Nutcracker* to move to the Boch Center Shubert Theatre in December 2018

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(Boston—May 14, 2018) [Anthony Williams' \*Urban Nutcracker\*](#), the modern Boston-centric holiday classic, will celebrate its 18<sup>th</sup> annual season with an exciting venue move to the Boch Center Shubert Theatre. The move to the historic Shubert Theatre will allow even more Bostonians an opportunity to experience what *The Boston Globe* has deemed “a holiday arts tradition reflecting the rich multicultural diversity of Boston.”

The performances, December 20-30, 2018, will showcase winter scenes set in present-day downtown Boston, blending the rhythms of Duke Ellington with the classical music of Tchaikovsky. Anchored by classical ballet, the performances also include a broad range of dance forms such as tap, hip hop, flamenco, and jazz, accompanied throughout the performance by a small live orchestra, a first for *Urban Nutcracker*.

Over 150 child and professional adult dancers cast from a national open call, from the Tony Williams Dance Center in Jamaica Plain, and international guest artists will bring the *Urban Nutcracker* to life. Every season offers new and exciting updates, and dancers and additional announcements will be made in fall 2018.

Tony Williams says, “I am thrilled to bring my *Urban Nutcracker* to the Boch Center Shubert Theatre for this year’s performances. Our partnership will allow even more Bostonians to experience our mission, “diversity through dance.” I can’t think of a better way to expand and enhance the experience of live dance for our audiences, and the Boch Center is the perfect venue partner to help us achieve our goals.”

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Boch Center, Josiah A. Spaulding, Jr., says, “We are truly excited to partner with a fellow arts non-profit as we welcome Anthony Williams’ *Urban Nutcracker* to the Shubert Theatre this December. This homegrown show has become a holiday classic and we look forward to introducing new audience members to the magic of the *Urban Nutcracker*.”

### More Information:

*Urban Nutcracker* will play the Boch Center Shubert Theatre for 12 performances from December 20-30, 2018. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Friday, May 11 at 10:00AM and will be available at the Boch Center Box Office, [bochcenter.org](http://bochcenter.org), or by calling (866) 348-9738. Groups of 10 or more may reserve discounted tickets now by contacting Boch Center Group Sales at (617) 532-1116 or [groups@bochcenter.org](mailto:groups@bochcenter.org).

[Ticket Prices](#): \$28-\$118 (inclusive of \$3 facility fee)

### Praise for *Urban Nutcracker*:

“When Drosselmeyer’s magic whisks Clarice off to the Boston Common, the Snow Queen and Snow King usher in a lovely, eye-catching sequence of dancing snowflakes that is well-crafted and skillfully danced.”  
- *The Boston Globe*

“[Urban Nutcracker] continues to defy tradition while solidifying itself as a local holiday icon... You’ll find a menagerie of bright colors, modern dance, and a swinging score.”  
- *WGBH, Open Studio with Jared Bowen*

“A modern take on the classic 19th century ballet.”  
- *NBC Boston*

“Hip-hop holiday fun... [with] enthusiasm and a sense of inclusive community onstage.”  
- *The Boston Globe*

“The Tony Williams Urban Nutcracker has become a staple in Boston during the holiday season”  
- *Huffington Post*

“The quintessential show of the holiday season.”  
- *The Patriot Ledger*

### **About *Urban Nutcracker* and Tony Williams**

The *Urban Nutcracker* celebrates multicultural Boston through a broad range of diverse dance styles. Produced by the Tony Williams Dance Center, the *Urban Nutcracker* harnesses the power the arts to unite diverse communities to be a catalyst for positive social change. Leading sponsor of Urban Nutcracker is Adage Capital.

Tony Williams is a dance pioneer and retired international ballet star. Williams’ dance philosophy uses the arts to unite diverse communities in Boston, having had direct experience on how transformative the arts can be on young lives. As a young man, he gained access to Boston Ballet’s dance program and progressed to become a principal dancer. From there he danced with the Joffery Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and performed all over the world. When Williams retired, he returned to his hometown of Jamaica Plain, where it all began, and opened a dance school. Not long after, he created the beloved *Urban Nutcracker* which annually enjoys a successful run in downtown Boston. Widely respected as a progressive dance educator, Williams has won the 2011 Dance Teacher Magazine Award and the 2008 Wheelock Family Theater’s Wheel Award alongside Jacques d’Amboise.

### **About the Boch Center**

The Boch Center is one of the nation’s leading nonprofit performing arts institutions and a guardian of the historic Wang and Shubert Theatres. As New England’s largest cultural venue, the Boch Center is home to theater, classical and popular music, dance, comedy, opera, Broadway musicals, family entertainment, and more.

Located in Boston’s historic Theater District, the Boch Center also offers a diverse mix of educational and community outreach initiatives, including the [City Spotlights Leadership Program](#) and [ArtWeek](#); collaborates with artists and local nonprofit arts organizations; preserves historic venues; and acts as a champion for Greater Boston’s arts and cultural community. Learn more at [bochcenter.org](http://bochcenter.org).

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