

For Immediate Release:

**EMMY-WINNER UZO ADUBA TO HEADLINE HEARTFELT FAMILY
DRAMA *MISS VIRGINIA***

***Film to commence shooting in Los Angeles next year; Casting
underway as Moving Picture Institute takes film to upcoming AFM***

Los Angeles, CA (November 2, 2017) – The Moving Picture Institute announced today that Emmy-winning actress Uzo Aduba (*Orange is the New Black*) has been cast as the lead in the independent production of *Miss Virginia*. The film, to be directed by R.J. Daniel Hanna (*Shelter*), is produced by Erin O'Connor, Rob Pfaltzgraff, and Maurice Black of the Moving Picture Institute (*2081* starring Armie Hammer, Julie Haggerty, and James Cosmo), and Stacey Parks of Media Sparks Films. The film is set to commence production early next year in Los Angeles, with the Moving Picture Institute bringing the title to the upcoming American Film Market.

Inspired by a true story, *Miss Virginia* follows a struggling inner-city single mother who moves her at-risk son from his dangerous neighborhood school to a safe -- but expensive -- one. Sacrificing everything but still unable to make the tuition payment, she launches a movement that could save her son's future and that of many other children in the community.

"The real Miss Virginia is as formidable as she is warm and down-to-earth," said O'Connor, who also wrote the film's script. "No one captures that spirit like Uzo. Her bravery, grit, and humor shine through in all her performances. We're ecstatic that she will be bringing her infectious energy to *Miss Virginia*."

Aduba is best known for the role of Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren in the Netflix hit series *Orange is the New Black*. She has recently been seen in the film *American Pastoral*, directed by Ewan McGregor, and will next be seen in the upcoming Netflix Original feature *Candy Jar* alongside Christina Hendricks and Helen Hunt.

Aduba is repped by UTA and Management 360. Hanna is repped by Gersh and Kaplan/Perrone Entertainment.

About the Moving Picture Institute

The Moving Picture Institute is a modern-media production house and talent incubator that creates and supports high-impact film and video content designed to entertain, inspire, and educate audiences with captivating stories about human freedom.

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