



# Uzo Aduba



This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by [TonyIsTheWoman](#) (talk | contribs) at 01:05, 14 December 2017 (→ *Awards and nominations: Update; corrections*). The present address (URL) is a **permanent link** to this revision, which may differ significantly from the **current revision**.

**Uzoamaka Nwanneka "Uzo" Aduba**<sup>[1]</sup> (/ˈuːzoʊ əˈduːbə/; born February 10, 1981)<sup>[2]</sup> is an American actress. She is known for her role as Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren on the Netflix original series *Orange Is the New Black* (2013–present), for which she won an [Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series](#) in 2014, an [Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series](#) in 2015, and two [Screen Actors Guild Awards for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series](#) in 2014 and 2015.<sup>[3]</sup> She is one of only two actors to win an Emmy Award recognition in both the comedy and drama categories for the same role, the other being [Ed Asner](#) for the character [Lou Grant](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

## Early life

Aduba was born in [Boston](#), Massachusetts, the daughter of [Nigerian](#) parents, of [Igbo](#) origin, from [Achi](#) in [Enugu State](#).

She grew up in [Medfield](#), Massachusetts,<sup>[5]</sup> and graduated from [Medfield High School](#) in 1999.<sup>[6]</sup> She attended [Boston University](#), where she studied classical voice<sup>[7]</sup> and competed in [track and field](#).<sup>[8][9]</sup> She describes her family as a "sports family".<sup>[7]</sup> Her younger brother, Obi, played hockey at the [University of Massachusetts](#) and went on to play six seasons professionally.<sup>[10]</sup>

## Career

Aduba first garnered recognition for her acting in 2003, when her performance in *Translations of Xhosa*<sup>[11]</sup> at the [Olney Theatre Center](#) for the Arts earned her a [Helen Hayes Award](#) nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play.<sup>[12]</sup> Aduba played the character Amphiarus in 2006 at [New York Theatre Workshop](#) and again in 2008 at [La Jolla Playhouse](#). In 2007, she made her Broadway debut, portraying Toby in [Helen Edmundson](#)'s adaptation of *Coram Boy* at the [Imperial Theatre](#).<sup>[13]</sup> From 2011 through 2012, she sang "By My Side" as part of the original revival

Uzo Aduba



Aduba in 2014

<b>Born</b>	<div>Uzoamaka</div> <div>Nwanneka Aduba</div> <div>February 10, 1981</div> <div><span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Boston</a>,<div></div> <a href="#">Massachusetts</a>, <span><span></span></span> U.S.</div>
<b>Alma<span> </span>mater</b>	<a href="#">Boston University</a>
<b>Occupation</b>	Actress
<b>Years<span> </span>active</b>	2003–present

cast of *Godspell* at the *Circle in the Square Theatre*.<sup>[14][15]</sup> Her first television appearance was as a nurse on *Blue Bloods* in 2012.<sup>[7]</sup> She also played the mother of the title character of *Venice* at *The Public Theater* in New York.<sup>[16][17]</sup>

In 2013, Aduba began portraying Suzanne *"Crazy Eyes" Warren* in the *Netflix* comedy-drama series *Orange Is the New Black*.<sup>[18]</sup> On being cast, Aduba said:

I auditioned for the show back in late July or early August of [2012]. I had been auditioning that summer for more television and film [after doing much theater]. I'd read a lot of scripts and I remember reading *Orange Is the New Black*, and it was at the head of the pack. I remember thinking, 'Wow, that is really good, I would love to be a part of that.' I went in and auditioned for another part, and my representatives called me about a month later and they were like, 'Hi, we have some really good news. You remember that audition you went on for *Orange Is the New Black*? You didn't get it.' I go, 'So... okay, what's the good news?' They said they wanted to offer me another part, Crazy Eyes. I was like, 'What in my audition would make someone think I'd be right for a part called Crazy Eyes?' But to be honest, when I got the script for it, it felt like the right fit.<sup>[19]</sup>

Casting director Jennifer Euston explains the selection of Aduba for the role thus: "Uzo Aduba...had her hair in those knots for the audition...They saw something amazing in her and were able to connect it to what they were looking for in Crazy Eyes."<sup>[20]</sup> In joining the series, Aduba obtained her *Screen Actors Guild* card, about which she says, "I was just like, 'Wow, this means I'm a full actor now.' It was such a big deal, and I remember being so thankful and feeling so proud."<sup>[21]</sup>

She has been recognized for her performance as "Crazy Eyes": Aduba won *Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series* at the *66th Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards* as well as *Best Guest Performer in a Comedy Series* at the *4th Critics' Choice Television Awards* and was nominated for *Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film* at the *18th Satellite Awards* for her season one performance.<sup>[22][23][24]</sup> Aduba's season two performance earned her the *Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series* at the *21st Screen Actors Guild Awards* and a nomination for *Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film* at the *72nd Golden Globe Awards*.<sup>[25][26][27]</sup>

Aduba won a second Primetime Emmy at the *67th Primetime Emmy Awards* in 2015, winning the award for *Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series*. This makes her the first actress to win both a drama and comedy Emmy for the same role.<sup>[28]</sup> Aduba's performance in the third season also earned another *Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series* win for the *22nd Screen Actors Guild Awards*.<sup>[29]</sup> She also earned a *Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film* at the *73rd Golden Globe Awards*.<sup>[30]</sup>

In March 2014, Aduba performed at *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS* benefit concert *Broadway Backwards*.<sup>[31]</sup> Aduba teamed with Rachel Bay Jones for a rendition of the song "Lily's Eyes" from the musical *The Secret Garden*.<sup>[32]</sup>

Aduba plays a major role in *My Little Pony: The Movie*, where she voices Queen Novo, leader of the Hippogriff/Seaponies.

## Advocacy

---

In April 2017, Aduba received the Point Courage Award from the [Point Foundation](#) for her support of the [LGBT](#) community.<sup>[33]</sup>

## Filmography

---

### Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2015	<i>Pearly Gates</i>	Corrie	
	<i>Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip</i>	<a href="#">TSA</a> Officer	
2016	<i>Tallulah</i>	Detective Kinnie	
	<i>American Pastoral</i>	Vicky	
	<i>Showing Roots</i>	Pearl	
2017	<i>My Little Pony: The Movie</i>	Queen Novo (voice)	
	<i>Candy Jar</i>	Julia Russell	<i>Post-production</i>
TBA	<i>We Are Boats</i>	Sir	<i>Post-production</i>

### Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2012	<i>Project Runway: All Stars</i>	Herself	Episode: "Putting On The Glitz"
	<i>Blue Bloods</i>	Nurse	Episode: "Nightmares"
2013	<i>How to Live Like a Lady</i>	Acting Teacher	Television film
2013–present	<i>Orange Is the New Black</i>	Suzanne "Crazy Eyes" Warren	62 episodes
2014	<i>Saturday Night Live</i>	Daughter Dudley	Episode: "Woody Harrelson/Kendrick Lamar"
	<i>Hell's Kitchen</i>	Herself	Season 13 Episode 10: "9 Chefs Compete"
2015	<i>Comedy Bang! Bang!</i>	Herself	Episode: "Uzo Aduba Wears a White Blouse and Royal Blue Heels"
	<i>The Wiz Live!</i>	<a href="#">Glinda the Good Witch</a>	Television special
2016	<i>Steven Universe</i>	Bismuth (voice)	Episode: " <a href="#">Bismuth</a> " <sup>[34]</sup>

## Stage credits

---

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2006	<i>The Seven</i>	Amphiarus	<a href="#">New York Theatre Workshop</a>
2007	<i>Coram Boy</i>	Toby	<a href="#">Imperial Theatre</a>

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2008	<i><u>The Seven</u></i>	Amphiarus	<u>La Jolla Playhouse</u>
2009	<i><u>Eclipsed</u></i>	Helena	<u>Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company</u>
2009	<i><u>A Civil War Christmas</u></i>	Hannah	<u>Huntington Theatre</u>
2011	<i><u>Godspell</u></i>	Company	<u>Circle in the Square Theatre</u>
2013	<i><u>Venice</u></i>	Anna Monroe	<u>The Public Theater</u>
2016	<i><u>The Maids</u></i>	Solange	<u>Trafalgar Studios</u>

## Awards and nominations

Year	Association	Category	Nominated work	Result
2013	<u>Satellite Awards</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film</u>	<i><u>Orange Is the New Black</u></i>	Nominated
2014	<u>Critics' Choice Television Award</u>	<u>Best Guest Performer in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
	<u>Golden Globe Awards</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film</u>		Nominated
	<u>Primetime Emmy Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
	<u>Screen Actors Guild Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
		<u>Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
2015	<u>NAACP Image Award</u>	<u>Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series</u>		Nominated
	<u>Primetime Emmy Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series</u>		Won
	<u>Screen Actors Guild Award</u>	<u>Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
		<u>Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
2016	<u>NAACP Image Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series</u>		Nominated
	<u>Golden Globe Awards</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actress – Series, Miniseries or Television Film</u>		Nominated
	<u>Glamour Awards</u> <sup>[35]</sup>	<u>Comedy Actress</u>		Nominated
	<u>Screen Actors Guild Award</u>	<u>Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series</u>		Nominated
		<u>Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series</u>		Won
2017	<u>NAACP Image Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series</u>		Nominated
	<u>Primetime Emmy Awards</u>	<u>Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series</u>		Nominated
	<u>Screen Actors Guild Award</u>	<u>Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Comedy Series</u>		Pending

Year	Association	Category	Nominated work	Result
		Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series		Pending

## References

1. "Godspell Talk Back – Uzo Aduba" (<http://www.reviewingthedrama.com/2012/03/godspell-talk-back-uzo-aduba.html>). Reviewing The Drama. March 26, 2012.
2. Wright, Celine (August 12, 2013). "'Orange Is the New Black's' Uzo Aduba on a good road as Crazy Eyes" (<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/aug/12/entertainment/la-et-st-crazy-eyes-20130812>). *Los Angeles Times*. "32-year-old Aduba"
3. Emmy Awards 2015: The complete winners list (<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/20/entertainment/emmy-awards-2015-winners-list-feat/>). CNN.com (September 21, 2015). Retrieved on December 7, 2015.
4. "Uzo Aduba Watch 'OITNB' actress speak Igbo, reveal her favourite Nigerian dish," (<http://pulse.ng/movies/uzo-aduba-watch-oitnb-actress-speak-igbo-reveal-her-favourite-nigerian-dish-id4619100.html>). *Pulse.ng*. Chidumga Izuzu. Retrieved January 29, 2016.
5. Aduba, Uzo (August 4, 2014). "Uzo Aduba: My Road to 'Orange Is the New Black'" (<http://www.the-dailybeast.com/articles/2014/08/04/uzo-aduba-my-road-to-orange-is-the-new-black.html>). *The Daily Beast*
6. "Medfield Native Uzo Aduba Attends White House Correspondents Dinner" (<http://medfield.patch.com/groups/arts-and-entertainment/p/medfield-native-uzo-aduba-attends-white-house-correspondents-dinner>). medfield.patch.com. May 5, 2014.
7. Champagne, Christine (June 8, 2014). "Behind the Breakout Role: Orange is the New Black's Uzo Aduba on Creating Crazy Eyes" (<http://www.fastcocreate.com/3031600/the-breakout-orange-is-the-new-blacks-uzo-aduba-on-creating-crazy-eyes>). *Co.Create*. Retrieved July 15, 2014.
8. "2001–02 Women's Track Roster" (<http://www.goterriers.com/sports/w-track/archive/073007aab.html>). Boston University. Retrieved July 11, 2014.
9. "Boston University Meet Results" (<http://www.umassathletics.com/sports/w-itrac/stats/020402aab.html>). UMassAthletics.com. Retrieved October 27, 2013.
10. "Obi Aduba player profile" (<http://www.hockeydb.com/ihdb/stats/pdisplay.php?pid=77818>). hockeydb.com.
11. "Translations of Xhosa - Washington, DC - Tickets, Reviews, Info and More" ([http://www.theatermania.com/washington-dc-theater/shows/translations-of-xhosa\\_23172/](http://www.theatermania.com/washington-dc-theater/shows/translations-of-xhosa_23172/)). *theatermania*. Retrieved October 29, 2017.
12. "Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Play – 2004" ([http://theatrewashington.org/find-hha-nominees?field\\_award\\_year\\_value\\_many\\_to\\_one%5B%5D=2004&field\\_award\\_winner\\_value\\_many\\_to\\_one=All&field\\_award\\_category\\_value=&field\\_award\\_theater\\_name\\_value=&field\\_award\\_show\\_title\\_value=&field\\_nominee\\_first\\_name\\_value=&field\\_nominee\\_last\\_name\\_value=&page=full](http://theatrewashington.org/find-hha-nominees?field_award_year_value_many_to_one%5B%5D=2004&field_award_winner_value_many_to_one=All&field_award_category_value=&field_award_theater_name_value=&field_award_show_title_value=&field_nominee_first_name_value=&field_nominee_last_name_value=&page=full)). Awards and nominations Theatre Washington. Retrieved October 27, 2013.
13. Isherwood, Charles (May 3, 2007). "Orphans of the Storm, Assailed by Lurid Evildoers" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/03/theater/reviews/03cora.html>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved August 24, 2016.
14. "Uzo Aduba" (<http://ibdb.com/person.php?id=456811>). Internet Broadway Database. Retrieved October 27, 2013.
15. "Meet the Cast: Uzo Aduba" (<http://www.godspell.com/cast/uzoaduba.html>). Godspell.com. Retrieved July 28, 2013.

16. Brantley, Ben (June 15, 2013). "Of Shakespeare and Superheroes" (<http://theater.nytimes.com/2013/06/15/theater/reviews/venice-by-eric-rosen-and-matt-sax-teems-with-action.html>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved July 28, 2013.
17. "Venice, review, Off-Broadway, New York Theatre" (<http://www.newyorktheatreguide.com/reviews/venice13.htm>). *newyorktheatreguide.com*. Retrieved July 28, 2013.
18. "Orange Is the New Black's Uzo Aduba on Crazy Eyes, Flirting Techniques, and Peeing on the Floor" (<http://www.vulture.com/2013/07/orange-is-the-new-black-crazy-eyes-uzo-aduba-interview.html>). *Vulture.com*. Retrieved July 28, 2013.
19. Ryan, Maureen (August 23, 2013). "'Crazy Eyes' From 'Orange Is The New Black' Talks Flirting, Jodie Foster And That Infamous Scene" ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/22/crazy-eyes-orange-is-the-new-black\\_n\\_3796730.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/22/crazy-eyes-orange-is-the-new-black_n_3796730.html)). *The Huffington Post*. Retrieved October 27, 2013.
20. Loewenstein, Melinda (June 2, 2014). "#1 Reason Seeing Potential Beyond the Audition Created an Outstanding Ensemble for 'Orange Is the New Black'" (<http://www.backstage.com/advice-for-actors/getting-cast/1-reason-seeing-potential-beyond-audition-created-outstanding-ensemble-orange-new-black/>). *Backstage*.
21. Moynihan, Rob (January 19, 2015). "How I Got My SAG-AFTRA Card", *TV Guide*. p. 8
22. "Primetime Emmy Awards 2014: The winners list" (<http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/25/showbiz/primetime-emmy-awards-winners-2014/>). CNN. August 26, 2014. Retrieved September 4, 2014.
23. "The International Press Academy Announces Nominations For The 18th Annual Satellite Awards" (<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-international-press-academy-announces-nominations-for-the-18th-annual-satellite-awards-234075351.html>). PR Newswire. December 2, 2013. Retrieved September 5, 2014.
24. Atkinson, Kate (June 19, 2014). "Critics' Choice TV Awards: The winners list" (<http://insidetv.ew.com/2014/06/19/critics-choice-television-awards-winners-2/>). *Entertainment Weekly*. Retrieved September 5, 2014.
25. Leeds, Sarene (January 26, 2015). "SAG Awards: The Complete 2015 Winners List" (<https://blogs.wsj.com/speakeasy/2015/01/26/sag-awards-the-complete-2015-winners-list/>). *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved January 27, 2015.
26. Keegan, Rebecca (January 26, 2015). "SAG Awards 2015: 'Birdman' feathers its nest as Oscars nears" (<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-mn-sag-main-20150126-story.html#page=1>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved January 27, 2015.
27. Mitovich, Matt Webb (December 11, 2014). "Golden Globes: *Fargo*, *True Detective* Lead Nominations; *Jane the Virgin*, *Transparent* Score Multiple Nods" (<http://tvline.com/2014/12/11/golden-globe-nominations-2015-globes-awards-nominees/>). TVLine. Retrieved December 11, 2014.
28. "Uzo Aduba Is 'Grateful' After Tearful Emmy Win" (<https://extratv.com/2015/09/21/uzo-aduba-is-grateful-after-tearful-emmy-win/>). ExtraTV.com. Retrieved September 22, 2015.
29. "SAG Awards: The Complete Winners List" (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/lists/2016-sag-winners-complete-list-856945/item/outstanding-performance-by-a-cast-846009>). *The Hollywood Reporter*. January 30, 2016. Retrieved February 3, 2016.
30. "Golden Globes 2016: Complete list of winners and nominees" (<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/envelope/la-et-mn-golden-globes-2016-nominees-winners-list-story.html>). *Los Angeles Times*. January 10, 2016. Retrieved July 21, 2016.
31. Gans, Andrew (March 20, 2014). "Uzo Aduba and Rachel Bay Jones Join Lineup for *Broadway Backwards*; Rush Tickets Will Be Available Day of Performance" (<http://www.playbill.com/news/article/uzo-aduba-and-rachel-bay-jones-join-lineup-for-broadway-backwards-rush-tick-216251>). *Playbill*.
32. "BROADWAY BACKWARDS" (<http://www.broadwaycares.org/backwards2014>). Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. March 2014. Retrieved January 24, 2015.

33. Sweeney, Emily (April 5, 2017). "Uzo Aduba honored in New York" (<https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/names/2017/04/04/uzo-aduba-honored-new-york/KHnRtt8NpeNqc0ECq3uX2K/story.html>). *The Boston Globe*. Retrieved April 11, 2017.
34. Kickham, Dylan (July 7, 2016). "'Steven Universe': Uzo Aduba plays a new Crystal Gem — exclusive" (<http://www.ew.com/article/2016/07/07/steven-universe-uzo-aduba-bismuth>). *Entertainment Weekly*. Retrieved August 24, 2016.
35. "Glamour Women of the Year voting 2016" (<https://www.demographix.com/surveys/QM2V-44C7/76P4HH4Z/>). *demographix.com*. Retrieved August 24, 2016.

## External links

---

- [Uzo Aduba \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2499064/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2499064/) at [IMDb](#)
  - [Uzo Aduba \(https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/456811\)](https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/456811) at the [Internet Broadway Database](#)
  - [Uzo Aduba \(http://www.lortel.org/Archives/CreditableEntity/31772\)](http://www.lortel.org/Archives/CreditableEntity/31772) at [Internet Off-Broadway Database](#)
- 

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Uzo\\_Aduba&oldid=815299615](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Uzo_Aduba&oldid=815299615)"

▪