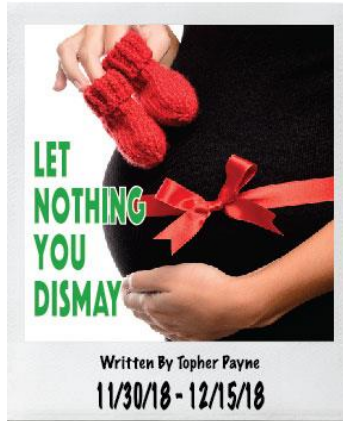


**The Farmington Players Barn Theater  
Audition Notice**



***Let Nothing You Dismay***

**by Topher Payne**

**Sunday, September 16, 2018**

**Registration 12:30 pm      Auditions 1:00 pm**

**Production Team:** Tony Targan-Director, Michelle Noble-Assistant Director,  
Jill Jones-Stage Manager, Laurie Smalis-Producer

**Rehearsal Schedule:** 3 nights a week TBD, beginning October 1

**Performance Dates:** November 30, December 1, 2, 7, 8(x2), 9, 13, 14, 15

**Mandatory Dates:** Tech-November 25, Dress Rehearsals-November 26, 27, 28,  
Strike-Sunday, December 16

**Synopsis:** In this fast-paced yet sophisticated farce set on Christmas Day, Kevin and Allie are about to become adoptive parents. They've begged their families to stay away as they await the birth mother's delivery, but of course the families can't resist surprising the happy couple by turning up, along with a retinue of misfit hangers-on. Complications ensue when the birth mother has second thoughts about giving up her baby. Sparks fly when spousal and sibling rivalries are renewed, and romances rekindled, all to great comedic effect.

**Casting Notes:**

\* **Eight actors play 22 roles** with varying age ranges, so we are looking for versatile comedic actors that are able to differentiate each of their characters, physically and vocally. Ideally, each actor will play 2 - 3 roles as described below, but the Casting Committee reserves the right to allocate or split roles in its discretion. We are auditioning actors age 18 + only.

\*Auditions involve cold readings from the script. Request script or ask questions at

[letnothingyoudismay@farmingtonplayers.org](mailto:letnothingyoudismay@farmingtonplayers.org)

# ***Let Nothing You Dismay***

## **Characters:**

(Age / Speeches): All character ages are “appears as.” / A “Speech” = anytime a character begins/ends speaking, and each speech can range from one word to several sentences.

- **Allie Saperstein Gordon** (early-30s / 156 speeches) – Adoptive mother, happily married to Kevin, but nervous about parenthood. Jewish. Daughter of Linda and Oscar. Even though Allie is a rocket scientist, she feels inferior to her sister Angie, a brain surgeon.
  - **Lizzie Murphy** (mid-20s / 46 sp.) – Birth mother, loves her boyfriend Leonard, but Lizzie is having second thoughts about giving up her baby. She is mildly panicked, impulsive, and impressionable, but also sweet and good-natured.
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- **Kevin Gordon** (late 20s / 175 sp.) – Adoptive father, happily married to Allie, stressed about his family descending on the hospital. Episcopalian. Kevin works as a college professor and secretly looks up to his older brother Dennis. Son of Paul and Charlotte. Not happy that his “stepmother” Kaitlyn is only 30 years old.
  - **Leonard** (early 20s/ 26 sp.) – Allie’s boyfriend is like a surfer dude, but without the surf. (Think Spicoli from *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*.) Works as a Domino’s Pizza delivery guy. He’s afraid of what it means if Lizzie keeps the baby, and is nervous and awkward around Allie’s and Kevin’s crazy families.
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- **Kaitlyn Varsell-Gordon** (30 years old / 57 sp.) – Blond, former beauty queen, very bubbly and loving, but not an airhead. Kaitlyn is Paul’s trophy wife, and wears a sexy denim bandage dress. She orchestrated the hospital visit and has a strong sense of family, but is oblivious to Kevin’s and Allie’s feelings. Super excited to be a “grandma.”
  - **Brianna Stossel** (40 y.o. / 34 sp.) – A severe but strangely appealing woman clad entirely in black. Charlotte’s favorite author, Brianna smokes an electronic cigarette, is apathetic and sedate, and enjoys making people feel uncomfortable. Possibly a Russian accent.
  - **Angela Saperstein-Koplan** (late 30s / 17 sp.) – Allie’s older sister, a brain surgeon who wears hospital scrubs with nice boots and a fur-trimmed coat. Angie is very self-absorbed, work-obsessed, high-strung, and shows little respect for her husband, Rich.
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- **Dennis Gordon** (36 y.o. / 103 sp.) – Kevin’s older brother. Business attire. Obsessed with money, continually distracted by his phone, mildly self-absorbed and self-important, but he would do anything for Kevin. Strangely attracted to Brianna.
  - **Jerry** (45 y.o. / 38 sp.) – Husband of Dr. Tim, gay but not flamboyant, wears Christmas sweater and Santa hat. Jerry is Charlotte’s friend from Detroit. He is very kind and helpful, happy to be included, and loves to grow root vegetables.
  - **Richard Koplan** (38 y.o. / 15 sp.) – Browbeaten husband of Angie, Rich lives a life of quiet desperation. He loves his wife more than she appears to love him. Meek, kind and subdued, he aims to please. Allergic to nuts.
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- **Tawny Varsell** (51 y.o. / 40 sp.) – Kaitlyn’s mom. She’s a former model, still beautiful but dressed in wildly inappropriate clothes for her age. Her facial muscles are temporarily paralyzed by a Botox accident, so she bears a terrifyingly cheerful and unchanging expression. Tawny craves attention and is very emotional over the death of her cat.
  - **Deb from Upstairs** (late 40s / 31 sp.) – Charlotte’s upstairs neighbor, Deb is a wannabe Native American hippie who is very intuitive/psychic. She sees auras, is a doula, and pushes Lizzie to have a water birth. Deb wear lots of turquoise, a dream catcher, and perhaps a poncho-dress.
  - **Linda Saperstein** (58 y.o. / 68 sp.) – Mother of Allie and Angie. Jewish. Linda and her husband Oscar are very polished and wealthy; they like to quarrel, but are still very much in love. Despite her wealth, Linda complains about money, and she clashes with “hippies and Republicans” like Charlotte and Paul, respectively.
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- **Assemblyman Paul Gordon** (58 y.o. / 76 sp.) – Father of Kevin and Dennis, ex-husband of Charlotte, who he doesn’t get along with at all. Paul is a New York politician, and the world is his campaign stop. He is unaware of his son’s discomfort with Kaitlyn, his 30 year-old second wife.
  - **Doctor Tim** (53 y.o. / 33 sp.) – Husband of Jerry, gay but not flamboyant, wears a Christmas sweater. Tim is Charlotte’s friend from Detroit. He’s a veterinarian, very jolly, kind, and helpful.
  - **Mr. Victor Yarmowich** (88 y.o. / 38 sp.) – Bubbie’s “gentleman friend” but actually gay. Well-dressed, dapper, spritely old man who might be losing it mentally. (Victor tells a long, fanciful story about how he helped Patti LuPone get her start in show business.)
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- **Noreen Gordon** (60s / 34 sp.) – Kevin’s aunt, Paul’s sister. A fun, kooky nun, slightly scatterbrained, and a little frantic. (Noreen is off duty, so she’s not dressed as a nun.) She loves her family ferociously, but is terrible at keeping secrets.
- **Charlotte Gordon** (56 y.o. / 69 sp.) – Mother to Kevin and Dennis. Charlotte is a psychic, aging hippie: Everything about her – her hair, her hands, her clothing – flows like a gentle breeze. She abandoned her family but is trying to make amends. Despite good intentions, she is overbearing and oblivious to Kevin’s desires. Clashes with Paul.
- **Bubbie** (84 y.o. / 34 sp.) – Grandmother to Allie, mother to Oscar. Bubbie has feelings for Milford (who calls her Rachael), but pretends to be dating Mr. Yarmowich. Jewish; she sprinkles in Yiddish phrases. A strong independent woman, very snarky, who doesn’t take nonsense from anyone.

- **Milford Gordon** (80 y.o. / 40 sp.) – Kevin’s grandfather, Paul and Noreen’s father. Milford is a crotchety, gruff old man who wants to be left alone to do his own thing, or as the author says, “A man perpetually in pursuit of his own unspoken tasks.” He loves Bubbie, who he met in assisted living, and tries to woo her. Obsessed with shrimp.
- **Ivan** (62 y.o. / 24 sp.) – Ivan is described as “a shifty-eyed Bulgarian whose upper body does not match his lower body.” He is Charlotte’s dry cleaner. Ivan doesn’t quite understand America, and his English usage can be comical. Eastern European accent.
- **Oscar Saperstein** (60 y.o. / 30 sp.) – Wealthy, doting father of Allie and Angie, husband of Linda. Jewish. Oscar is constantly placating his wife, loves his daughters very much, and acts as the steadying force in his family; a peacekeeper.

