

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

ELEVATOR 7B

3 Male (M + M + M) | Genre: Psychological Thriller | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A stalled elevator traps a corporate lawyer, a security guard, and a mysterious witness in a claustrophobic confrontation where a sealed confession threatens to expose an old cover-up. As the doors begin to open, each man must choose between self-preservation and the truth.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: cold, metallic, suffocating psychological thriller with harsh emergency LED realism and deep shadow contrast. • The elevator should feel like a pressure cooker: every pause, glance, and button press becomes dramatic action. • Pacing must be tight and escalating, with small reveals landing like punches rather than broad exposition. • The emotional arc is driven by guilt, denial, and moral collapse, not physical action. • Keep performances restrained at first, then let the cracks show through micro-expressions, breath, and stillness. • The final image should feel morally unresolved: the door opens, but no one steps out cleanly.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Nikhil age: 29 look: Crisp suit, controlled face, sweat at collar, corporate lawyer polish that slowly unravels under pressure. dramatic_arc: Begins as irritated and authoritative, then becomes defensive, exposed, and finally emotionally broken when the old truth implicates him. • character: Sameer age: 41 look: Building security guard in a worn uniform, calm eyes, keys in hand, physically grounded and observant. dramatic_arc: Starts as dry, detached, and watchful; gradually reveals complicity and moral fatigue before choosing to speak the truth over silence. • character: Kabir age: 36 look: Rain-damp coat, unshaven face, intense presence, clutching a paper envelope like evidence and burden. dramatic_arc: Enters as an unsettling intruder, then becomes the witness and moral catalyst who forces the other two to confront what they buried.
FESTIVAL & AUDIENCE TARGET: Ideal for Short Film Festivals, Indie Showcases, and YouTube Creator Channels. Focus on tight performances, sound design, and authentic Hinglish dialogue delivery.

SET ARCHITECTURE & PROPS

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

The entire set is a stalled elevator cabin between floors, built to feel narrow, airless, and acoustically trapped. Brushed metal walls should show fingerprints, smudges, and faint scratches that catch the emergency LEDs. The floor display must clearly read 7B. The control panel should include buttons that can be pressed repeatedly without effect, plus a red indicator that can blink intermittently. The emergency intercom should be visible and functional for static playback. The corners should allow one man to emerge from shadow. The shaft gap must be practical enough for flashlight spill. The corridor outside the doors should be visible only at the end, with cold spill light contrasting the interior darkness.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **character:** Nikhil | **costume:** Crisp corporate suit, shirt collar slightly loosened as tension rises, subtle sweat marks at the neck and underarms by mid-scene. | **continuity_notes:** Keep suit progressively less pristine; collar sweat must remain visible once introduced.
- **character:** Sameer | **costume:** Worn security guard uniform with practical utility, slightly aged fabric, keys jangling in hand, flashlight on belt. | **continuity_notes:** Uniform should remain consistent and believable as a working guard's outfit; keys and flashlight must stay visible.
- **character:** Kabir | **costume:** Rain-damp coat, unshaven and slightly disheveled appearance, carrying a paper envelope throughout. | **continuity_notes:** Coat should look damp on entry and gradually dry only slightly under the elevator light; envelope must remain intact until opened.

3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS):

- **prop:** Paper envelope | **details:** Plain paper envelope with '7B' written in marker; must be held like evidence and later opened to reveal contents.
- **prop:** Photocopied page | **details:** A single photocopied sheet inside the envelope, visibly handled as proof of backdated papers and signatures.
- **prop:** Photo | **details:** A printed photo showing Nikhil and Sameer outside a sealed room years ago.
- **prop:** Archive key ring tag | **details:** A key ring tag associated with building archives, revealed from the envelope and later weighed in Sameer's hand.
- **prop:** Elevator control panel | **details:** Buttons that can be jabbed repeatedly, with no response until the motor restarts.
- **prop:** Emergency intercom | **details:** Produces static at first, later carries the line about three men trapped and a crime still alive.
- **prop:** Flashlight | **details:** Carried by Sameer, used to shine into the shaft gap.
- **prop:** Keys | **details:** Jangling in Sameer's hand, later paired with the archive tag as a visual symbol of access and complicity.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Nikhil should have controlled perspiration at the collar and temple, increasing as the confrontation escalates. Sameer should remain mostly matte but with subtle stress sheen under harsh LEDs, especially when his guilt surfaces. Kabir should appear rain-damp, slightly tired, with unshaven texture and a weathered, sleepless look. All three should react to the cold emergency lighting with sharp shadow definition; no heavy prosthetics are needed. Add slight lip dryness, under-eye fatigue, and skin shine that catches flicker moments. The final beat should show visible emotional strain on all three faces.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Nikhil | **super_objective:** To maintain control and protect himself from exposure. | **subtext:** He wants the situation to remain a nuisance, not a reckoning, but every new detail threatens the identity he has built.
- **character:** Sameer | **super_objective:** To survive by staying useful and silent. | **subtext:** He has spent years following orders, and now he is forced to decide whether obedience is the same as innocence.
- **character:** Kabir | **super_objective:** To force the truth into the open. | **subtext:** He is not here to punish; he is here to make denial impossible.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

NIKHIL

Arre yaar... abhi nahi.

SAMEER

Jitna button dabaoge, utna hi ego hurt hoga.

KABIR

Main confession deliver karne aaya hoon.

SAMEER

((dry))

Bhai, wrong lift mein aa gaye kya?

KABIR

Wrong lift nahi. Right floor. Wrong people.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use tight, oppressive framing with 35mm and 50mm lenses for most dialogue, shifting to 85mm close-ups for emotional fractures. Keep the camera mostly locked or with minimal handheld drift to preserve claustrophobia, using subtle push-ins as tension rises. Favor over-the-shoulder compositions that trap faces against metal walls and reflections. The camera should feel like another passenger in the elevator, never escaping the box until the final door opening.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Entry and stall phase with harsh emergency LEDs as the primary source, creating cold top-light and hard shadow edges on brushed metal. Tier 2: Escalation phase with intermittent flicker, red panel blink, and flashlight accents to carve faces and reveal the shaft gap. Tier 3: Reveal and climax with stabilized but still cold interior light plus corridor spill from the half-open doors, creating a split between trapped interior truth and exterior escape.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the soundscape from metallic creaks, elevator cable groans, button clicks, and the soft jangle of Sameer's keys. The intercom should carry static and broken transmission before the rescue line appears faintly. Room tone must feel sealed and pressurized, with breath and cloth movement amplified. Use silence strategically after key reveals so the audience hears the weight of the confession.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Cold steel palette with blue-gray shadows, desaturated skin tones, and occasional red indicator accents. Keep contrast high but preserve detail in the brushed metal surfaces. The final corridor light should be slightly whiter and cleaner than the interior, emphasizing moral exposure rather than comfort. A restrained thriller LUT with cool highlights and muted blacks will suit the tone.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, set dressing, and elevator interior lock-off prep	Art, Grip, Camera
09:30 - 11:00	Rig emergency LEDs, intercom playback, and flicker cues	Electric, Sound, Camera
11:00 - 13:00	Block all three actors and rehearse confined movement beats	Director, Cast, Camera
14:00 - 16:00	Shoot dialogue escalation and envelope reveal coverage	Camera, Sound, Script Supervisor
16:00 - 17:30	Shoot climax, intercom line, motor restart, and door opening	Camera, Electric, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Keep the elevator set modular so the same cabin can be redressed for multiple angles. Use practical LED strips and a single flicker unit instead of complex lighting rigs. Shoot most coverage with one camera and minimal lens changes to save time in the confined space. Use sound design heavily to sell the stalled elevator and rescue presence. The corridor reveal can be a simple practical spill light outside the doors rather than a full hallway build. Limit extras and avoid showing the rescue team directly; faint voices are enough.

• **Mandatory Licensing:** Completely free for student/commercial production with on-screen credit: 'Story & Screenplay by Story Dil Se (storydilse.in)'.

