

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

CONFESSION AT 11:47

3 Male (M + M + M) | Genre: Mystery/Crime | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A cramped police interview room becomes a psychological trap when Inspector Varun questions a nervous barber and a composed business partner about the disappearance of Arjun Malhotra at 11:47. As a tape recorder, a torn receipt, and a handwritten note unravel the truth, the missing man turns out to be the one controlling the room from outside.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Claustrophobic, stage-like tension: one room, one clock, one fluorescent buzz, and escalating silence as the real threat becomes psychological rather than physical. • Visual language should favor stillness, micro-reactions, and controlled reversals; every prop must feel like evidence and every pause like a weapon. • The pacing is a slow tightening spiral: calm interrogation, contradiction, reveal, then a final snap into accusation. • Themes: truth as performance, manipulation through information, and the power imbalance between who asks questions and who controls the narrative. • Keep performances grounded and restrained; the drama should come from what is withheld, not shouted.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Inspector Varun age: 39 look: Sleeves rolled up, practical police presence, coffee-stained notepad in hand, alert eyes that miss very little. dramatic_arc: Begins as the controlled interrogator, becomes the one decoding the trap, and ends by realizing the missing man never entered the room. • character: Hassan age: 33 look: Nervous barber, plain shirt, fidgety posture, trembling hands, sweat building as pressure rises. dramatic_arc: Starts defensive and scattered, is exposed as a pawn/courier, and finally understands why he was brought into the room. • character: Karan age: 46 look: Tailored blazer, composed smile, watchful gaze, polished business-partner confidence that slowly cracks. dramatic_arc: Begins calm and superior, tries to control the narrative, then loses composure when the recording and note corner him.
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.

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

Build a small, suffocating police interview room with hard, unforgiving geometry. Use a single metal table centered in frame, three mismatched chairs, bare walls, a one-way mirror on one side, and a ticking wall clock placed high enough to dominate the room. The fluorescent tube should be visibly practical and slightly unstable, with a faint buzz that suggests institutional decay. Surface textures should be cold and worn: scratched metal tabletop, scuffed chair legs, dull paint, fingerprints on the mirror edge, and a slightly grimy clock face. Layer the space so the table becomes the battlefield: case file, tape recorder, handkerchief, and evidence envelope arranged like a chessboard of evidence. Keep the room visually sparse so every object feels loaded.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

• **character:** Inspector Varun | **costume:** Neutral police attire with sleeves rolled up; functional, slightly rumpled, with a coffee-stained notepad as his only personal marker. | **continuity_notes:** Maintain rolled sleeves throughout; keep notepad visibly stained and handled repeatedly.

• **character:** Hassan | **costume:** Plain shirt, modest barber look, no flashy accessories, clothing that reads practical and slightly underprepared. | **continuity_notes:** Shirt should show increasing stress through posture and sweat, not wardrobe changes.

• **character:** Karan | **costume:** Tailored blazer, crisp and businesslike, projecting control and status. | **continuity_notes:** Blazer should remain neat at first; by the end, the composure should crack through body language rather than costume damage.

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

• **prop:** Case file | **details:** Central investigative folder on the table, handled by Varun, used to reveal receipt and note.

• **prop:** Tape recorder | **details:** Old-school recorder with a clear ON/OFF action; must produce static before Arjun's voice.

• **prop:** Handkerchief | **details:** Evidence item with a faint barber oil stain, not blood; must be visible under practical light.

• **prop:** Evidence envelope | **details:** Contains the torn receipt, handkerchief, tape recorder, and later the handwritten note.

• **prop:** Torn receipt | **details:** Tea stall receipt from near Arjun's office, time stamp: 11:47.

• **prop:** Handwritten note | **details:** Arjun's note reading: "Karan will confess at 11:47. Hassan will hear it. Varun will decide who is lying."

• **prop:** Wall clock | **details:** Visible ticking clock that lands on 11:47 at the climax.

• **prop:** One-way mirror | **details:** Static background element that becomes psychologically important when Varun looks toward it.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic and performance-led. Varun should have mild under-eye fatigue and a slightly lived-in police-station look. Hassan needs visible sweat buildup, damp upper lip, and a pale, stressed complexion as the interrogation intensifies. Karan should remain polished, but his face should subtly lose color when the tape plays and the note is revealed. No heavy SFX is required; the key effects are sweat, tension flush, and the visual contrast between calm and panic under harsh fluorescent light.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Inspector Varun | **super_objective:** To uncover who is lying and restore control over the room. | **subtext:** He is not just asking questions; he is testing which story collapses first.
- **character:** Hassan | **super_objective:** To survive the interrogation without becoming the fall guy. | **subtext:** He is terrified that he has been used and even more terrified that he does not fully understand how.
- **character:** Karan | **super_objective:** To protect himself by staying composed and controlling the narrative. | **subtext:** He believes calmness is power, until the evidence forces his mask to slip.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

VARUN

11:47. Isi waqt Arjun Malhotra kahan tha?

HASSAN

((fidgeting))

Sir, mujhe kya pata. Main toh...

KARAN

((calmly))

Inspector, agar aapne humein yahan bulaya hai, toh reason hoga. Missing man ka naam hai, drama ka nahi.

VARUN

Drama tum dono kar rahe ho. Main bas interval de raha hoon.

HASSAN

Jhooth bol raha hai.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT**1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:**

Use a restrained, pressure-cooker camera style with mostly locked-off or minimally drifting frames. Favor medium wides to establish the triangle of power, then push into tight close-ups as contradictions surface. Lenses should feel intimate and slightly compressive, making the room seem smaller as the scene progresses. Camera movement philosophy: observe first, then intrude only when the truth begins to crack. Let the recorder reveal and the note reveal be supported by subtle push-ins rather than flashy moves.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening: harsh overhead fluorescent as the key source, creating flat, institutional light with slight flicker and hard shadows under eyes.
- 2) Mid-interrogation: introduce subtle contrast through controlled side fill and negative fill to isolate each face, making the room feel more divided and suspicious.
- 3) Reveal/climax: intensify the practical fluorescent buzz and keep the one-way mirror and clock visible in the background; allow faces to fall into sharper contrast as the tape and note expose the trap.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

The room tone should be oppressive: fluorescent buzz, wall clock ticking, chair creaks, paper slides, and the faint mechanical click of the tape recorder. Hassan's fidgeting should be audible through fabric rustle and nervous movement. The tape playback must begin with static, then Arjun's voice should cut through cleanly and feel unnervingly controlled. Keep the acoustic profile dry and close, with no reverb, so every word lands like evidence.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a cool, desaturated LUT with institutional greens, grays, and pale fluorescent whites. Skin tones should stay slightly sickly under the overhead light. Increase contrast gradually as the scene progresses, with the final reveal feeling colder and more severe. Avoid stylization that softens the room; the palette should reinforce confinement and suspicion.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, prop placement, and continuity check	Art, Props, Script Supervisor
09:00 - 10:00	Lighting rig and practical fluorescent test	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
10:00 - 10:45	Blocking rehearsal with actors	Director, Cast, AD
10:45 - 12:15	Master interrogation coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:15 - 13:15	Close-up coverage for receipt, handkerchief, tape recorder, and note reveal	Camera, Props, Script Supervisor
13:15 - 14:00	Final confrontation and clock-to-11:47 climax	Camera, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot in a real small office or unused room and dress it minimally to preserve the claustrophobic feel. Use one practical fluorescent tube and supplement with cheap bounce/negative fill rather than building a complex lighting rig. Keep the set sparse so production design costs stay low and the camera can emphasize tension. Record the tape playback cleanly on set or in post with a simple voiceover pass. Use performance, blocking, and sound design as the main suspense engines instead of expensive inserts or effects.

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

