

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE ROOFTOP PACT

3 Male (M + M + M) | Genre: Emotional Drama | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE:

Sunset par ek rooftop pe, ghar chhodne nikla Farhan apni haar aur gusse ke beech phans jata hai—jab Salim aur Imran usse rokne ke bajay uski izzat bachane ka raasta dete hain. Ek envelope, ek chai, aur ek vaada usse bhaagne ke bajay wapas aane ki himmat deta hai.

DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT:

- Visual tone: bittersweet urban realism, orange sunset ke saath fading daylight aur single bulb ka emotional contrast.
- Thematic depth: failure ko end nahi, pause dikhana; family blood se nahi, care aur dignity se banti hai.
- Pacing: intimate, dialogue-driven escalation with one emotional reveal, then a quiet release.
- Blocking philosophy: rooftop ko emotional triangle ki tarah use karna—Farhan edge par, Salim center of gravity, Imran bridge.
- Camera language: restrained, observational, close enough to catch micro-reactions, but never over-stylized.
- Ending mood: resolution nahi, permission—audience ko ek unfinished but hopeful aftertaste dena.

CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS:

• **character:** Farhan | **age:** 23 | **look:** Cheap jacket, backpack, guarded eyes, restless body language, cigarette pack haath mein. | **dramatic_arc:** Shame aur anger se bhagta hua ladka, jo end mein samajhta hai ki uski worth khatam nahi hui; woh jaane ke liye nahi, wapas aane ke liye nikalta hai.

• **character:** Salim | **age:** 47 | **look:** Work-worn shirt, gentle face, thaka hua lekin steady posture, thermos ke saath grounded presence. | **dramatic_arc:** Rokne wala elder banne ke bajay dignity dene wala guardian banta hai; uska compassion Farhan ko control nahi, direction deta hai.

• **character:** Imran | **age:** 26 | **look:** Neat beard, city job attire, measured stance, concern-filled eyes. | **dramatic_arc:** Neutral observer se supportive friend banta hai; practical humor ke through tension ko soften karta hai aur Farhan ko future ka bridge deta hai.

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:

Small residential rooftop with a lived-in, slightly cramped urban feel. Parapet walls weathered and stained, paint chipped in patches. A water tank near one side anchors the space. One crooked chair sits near the tank, used as a practical surface for the thermos. Laundry lines cross the frame at different heights, with cloth clips and hanging fabric moving gently in the breeze. The rooftop door should feel old and creaky, with visible metal wear. The floor should have dust, faint water marks, and everyday rooftop clutter kept minimal to preserve emotional focus. Distant city texture must remain visible through sound and skyline, not through extra set dressing.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

• **character:** Farhan | **costume:** Cheap jacket, worn casual clothes, backpack, cigarette pack in pocket/hand. | **continuity_notes:** Jacket should remain on throughout; backpack stays with him until exit. Cigarette pack is handled repeatedly but never lit.

• **character:** Salim | **costume:** Work-worn shirt, practical everyday clothing, no polished finish. | **continuity_notes:** Thermos is his key wardrobe-adjacent prop. Shirt should read as used, slightly tired, but clean enough to show care.

• **character:** Imran | **costume:** City job attire, neat beard, presentable but not flashy. | **continuity_notes:** Should contrast with Farhan's roughness and Salim's work-worn simplicity. No costume change.

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

• **prop:** Backpack | **details:** Old, practical, visibly used; Farhan's departure is tied to it.

• **prop:** Cigarette pack | **details:** Handled by Farhan, tapped out, one cigarette removed and put back; never lit.

• **prop:** Thermos | **details:** Carried by Salim; used to pour tea into lid and a small steel cup.

• **prop:** Envelope | **details:** Plain envelope from Salim's shirt pocket; contains money and becomes the emotional turning point.

• **prop:** Chair | **details:** Crooked rooftop chair near the water tank; used as a resting surface for the thermos and steel cup.

• **prop:** Water tank | **details:** Static rooftop anchor near the hanging bulb; visually frames the space.

• **prop:** Single bulb | **details:** Unlit at first, then flickers ON near the end above the water tank.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Naturalistic makeup only. Farhan: slight under-eye fatigue, mild sweat sheen, lip dryness, emotional wetness in eyes at the reveal. Salim: weathered skin texture, subtle age lines, work-worn realism, no glam finish. Imran: clean, controlled look with minimal shine, slight rooftop wind disturbance in hair/beard. SFX should be limited to believable sweat, dust on clothing, and eye moisture during emotional beats. No injury makeup or heavy distress effects.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Farhan | **super_objective:** Apni nakami se pehle apni izzat bachana. | **subtext:** Agar main yahan ruk gaya toh toot jaunga; agar chala gaya toh shayad bach jaun.
- **character:** Salim | **super_objective:** Farhan ko bina uski self-respect todhe uske next step tak pahunchana. | **subtext:** Main tujhe rok nahi sakta, lekin tujhe khokhla bhi nahi jaane dunga.
- **character:** Imran | **super_objective:** Farhan ko practical support aur emotional continuity dena. | **subtext:** Main lecture nahi, saath de raha hoon.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

SALIM

Bhagane se pehle chai pe lega?

FARHAN

Aap logon ko sab joke lagta hai, chacha. Mere liye nahi hai.

FARHAN

Main ja raha hoon.

SALIM

Nahi.

FARHAN

Rokne aaye ho?



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

Use intimate handheld or very subtle stabilized movement with 35mm and 50mm lenses for dialogue coverage, and a 85mm for emotional close-ups during the envelope reveal and final beat. Framing should keep the rooftop edges visible to reinforce emotional exposure. Movement philosophy: observe first, intervene later—slow push-ins only when the emotional stakes rise. Avoid flashy coverage; let pauses, eye-lines, and negative space carry the scene.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

3-tier plan: 1) Opening sunset: warm orange key from natural sky, soft fill from bounce, practical bulb still off; maintain long shadows and gentle contrast. 2) Mid-scene tension: sunset drops lower, add subtle negative fill to deepen facial contours, keep background traffic and laundry lines in silhouette. 3) Final release: bulb flickers on as daylight fades, creating mixed color temperature—warm bulb practical against cooling sky—to symbolize the temporary family moment and Farhan's new direction.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Ambient rooftop tone with distant traffic hum, occasional horn, soft wind through laundry lines, and pigeon flutter near the tank. Foley should emphasize thermos placement, envelope paper movement, cigarette pack taps, backpack strap shifts, and rooftop door creak. Dialogue space should feel open-air but intimate, with slight urban reverb and no heavy music underplay unless used extremely sparingly.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm sunset oranges and amber highlights against muted concrete grays and dusty browns. Skin tones should stay natural, with slightly desaturated shadows to preserve realism. Final beat should introduce a gentle mixed-temperature contrast: bulb warmth against cooling blue-gray sky. LUT style should feel cinematic but restrained, with soft highlight roll-off and preserved texture in walls, fabric, and faces.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Location recce, rooftop safety check, prop placement plan	Direction, Art, Production
09:00 - 10:30	Set dressing: laundry lines, chair, thermos station, water tank framing	Art, Props
10:30 - 11:30	Wardrobe prep and continuity photos	Costume, Script Supervisor
11:30 - 13:00	Camera and lighting rig, test sunset angles, bulb practical test	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
13:00 - 14:00	Blocking rehearsal with all three actors	Direction, Cast
14:00 - 15:30	Shoot dialogue coverage before golden hour	Camera, Sound, Cast
15:30 - 17:00	Shoot envelope reveal and emotional close-ups at sunset	Camera, Gaffer, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use a real rooftop location with minimal dressing and one practical bulb. Shoot during actual sunset to avoid expensive lighting setups. Keep wardrobe from actors' own neutral clothes if they match the brief. Use a single thermos, one envelope, and one chair as the main hero props. Record clean production sound on location to reduce post work. Limit coverage to a few strong angles and let performances carry the scene. Bounce natural light with inexpensive white foam boards instead of large fixtures.

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

