

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE UNSENT MESSAGE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE:

Ek raat ki chhoti si kitchen mein, ek unsent voice message purane dard, aadhe sach, aur dabbi hui maafi ko khol deta hai. Teen mardon ke beech jo khamoshi saalon se jam chuki thi, woh ek maa ki awaaz se pighal jaati hai.

DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT:

- Visual tone: intimate, claustrophobic, and emotionally raw; kitchen ko ek pressure chamber ki tarah treat karna hai.
- Thematic depth: grief, guilt, miscommunication, aur family ke unspoken sacrifices ko center mein rakhna hai.
- Pacing: slow-burn opening, mid-scene tension spike on the unsent message reveal, then a quiet emotional release.
- Performance style: restrained acting with micro-expressions; silence ko dialogue jitna important rakhna hai.
- Camera language: close, observant, and patient; characters ke emotional distance ko blocking aur framing se show karna hai.
- Sound emphasis: clock tik-tik, phone UI sounds, aur voice message ka intimate room-fill as the emotional trigger.
- Spatial storytelling: table, fridge glow, bulb, charger, aur face-down photo ko emotional anchors ki tarah use karna hai.

CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS:

- **character:** Arun | **age:** 57 | **look:** Formal shirt, kaanpte haath, composed but visibly aging face, grief ko control mein rakhne ki aadat. | **dramatic_arc:** Shuru mein restrained aur guarded; message sunne ke baad guilt aur regret ke saath emotional honesty tak pahunchta hai.
- **character:** Karan | **age:** 30 | **look:** Neat beard, office thakaan, phone ko defensive tarike se pakadne wala, emotionally closed posture. | **dramatic_arc:** In denial and resistance se start karke, voice message ke through suppressed grief aur guilt ko face karta hai.
- **character:** Rishi | **age:** 33 | **look:** Casual jacket, sincere eyes, practical presence, humor ke peeche empathy. | **dramatic_arc:** Charger dene aaya tha; dheere-dheere mediator se witness aur emotional facilitator ban jaata 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.



SET ARCHITECTURE & PROPS

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

Small kitchen ko compact, lived-in, and emotionally loaded banana hai. Fridge ka white glow practical source ho, overhead bulb slightly warm and tired feel de, aur table par blue phone light dominant accent ho. Table cluttered ho: teen tea cups, ek charger, aur ek framed photo face down. Walls par subtle wear, slightly dull paint, aur cramped spatial layers dikhni chahiye. Sink, counter edge, aur stool ko background mein minimal but functional rakhna hai. Framed photo ko emotionally central prop ki tarah place karna hai, but initially face down. Kitchen clock clearly visible ho taaki tik-tik tension build kare. Overall set should feel like a place where conversations have been avoided for years.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **character:** Arun | **costume:** Formal shirt, slightly muted tone, neat but not pristine; sleeves and fabric should suggest long-term wear and emotional stiffness. | **continuity_notes:** Haath kaanpte dikhne chahiye, shirt clean but lived-in; no major wardrobe change through scene.
- **character:** Karan | **costume:** Office-worn casual/formal hybrid feel, neat beard, tired but controlled appearance; phone-centric body language should be supported by practical pockets. | **continuity_notes:** Should look like he came straight from work or after a long day; no flashy accessories.
- **character:** Rishi | **costume:** Casual jacket, relaxed but presentable, slightly more mobile and informal than the others. | **continuity_notes:** Should remain visually lighter than Arun and Karan, reinforcing his outsider-mediator role.

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

- **prop:** Phone | **details:** Blue screen glow, low battery blink, visible file name: "Ammi - Voice Msg - Unsent". Must feel like the emotional trigger object.
- **prop:** Phone charger | **details:** Simple, practical charger brought in by Rishi; should be easy to plug into the phone on camera.
- **prop:** Tea cups | **details:** Three cups, one or more visibly untouched or thandi; one cup in Arun's hand, another on table, all slightly cluttered.
- **prop:** Framed photo | **details:** Old framed photo, initially face down; later turned upright to reveal a smiling woman. Must be physically easy to rotate on table.
- **prop:** Kitchen clock | **details:** Clearly audible and ideally visible; tik-tik becomes a tension device.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Naturalistic makeup only. Arun ke liye subtle age texture, under-eye fatigue, and slight hand tremor emphasis. Karan ke liye office fatigue, mild under-eye shadows, and emotional wetness buildup during the reveal. Rishi ke liye clean, grounded look with no heavy distress. Sweat should be minimal and motivated by tension, not heat. Voice message playback ke dauran emotional reaction ke liye tear-line buildup, lip tension, and facial micro-cracks important hain. Lighting reactions should be considered: fridge glow and phone blue light skin tones ko cool and slightly desaturated feel dein.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Arun | **super_objective:** Apni family ko tootne se bachana aur late wife ki memory ko samajhna. | **subtext:** Main strong dikhna chahta hoon, lekin mujhe bhi sach ka darr hai.
- **character:** Karan | **super_objective:** Apne guilt ko face kiye bina survive karna, aur maa ke loss ko control mein rakhna. | **subtext:** Agar main sun lunga, toh jo main ab tak sambhal raha tha woh bikhar jaayega.
- **character:** Rishi | **super_objective:** Do toote hue logon ke beech space create karna taaki sach bahar aa sake. | **subtext:** Main joke kar raha hoon, lekin asal mein main unhe ek dusre tak pahunchane ki koshish kar raha hoon.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

ARUN*(softly)*

Yeh... message?

KARAN

Papa, woh...

ARUN

Tumhari ammi ki awaaz hai?

KARAN

Mujhe nahi sunna.

ARUN

Main bas ek baar...



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

Intimate 35mm/50mm lens language with occasional tighter close-ups for emotional fractures. Framing should begin with a balanced three-shot that slowly tightens into over-the-shoulders and close-ups as the message is revealed. Camera movement philosophy: minimal, patient, and observational; subtle push-ins during silence and reveal moments, with no flashy movement. Use shallow depth of field to isolate the phone, the face-down photo, and the actors' eyes. Let blocking create emotional geography: Arun and Karan opposite sides of the table, Rishi slightly off-axis as mediator.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Establishing practicals — fridge white glow, warm overhead bulb, and blue phone screen to define the kitchen's emotional temperature.

Tier 2: Tension build — slightly lower ambient fill, stronger contrast on faces, and selective eye light from phone/fridge spill to emphasize hesitation and secrecy.

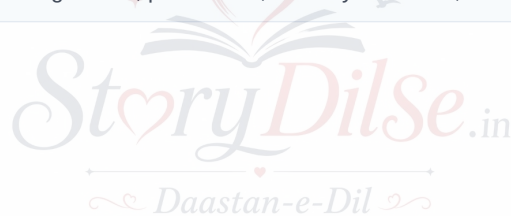
Tier 3: Reveal and release — maintain practical realism but soften shadows subtly after the voice message, allowing the room to feel less cold and more accepting without changing the location's truth.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Kitchen clock tik-tik as a recurring tension bed. Fridge hum, faint room tone, cup clinks, charger cable handling, phone UI blips, and the subtle rustle of clothing should all be audible. The voice message must feel intimate and close-mic'd, with slight breath and room resonance to make the mother's voice feel present in the kitchen. Silence after key lines should be preserved and allowed to breathe.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Cool, desaturated base with blue and white practical dominance. Skin tones should remain natural but slightly subdued. Warmth should only emerge subtly in the overhead bulb and in the emotional release moments. Contrast should be moderate-high in the first half, then gently soften after the reveal. Overall palette: fridge white, phone blue, muted yellow bulb, and neutral browns of the kitchen.



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
09:00 - 10:30	Lighting rig with practical fridge glow, overhead bulb, and phone screen tests	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
10:30 - 11:15	Blocking rehearsal for table positions, phone reveal, and photo turn	Director, Cast, AD
11:15 - 13:00	Shoot dialogue build-up and charger beat coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 14:30	Shoot voice message reveal and emotional reaction coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast, Script
14:30 - 15:30	Shoot photo upright moment, final line, and close-out inserts	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
One real kitchen location with controlled practicals is enough; avoid building a set unless absolutely necessary. Use a real fridge, one overhead bulb, and a phone screen as primary sources. Keep art direction limited to the table surface, cups, charger, and framed photo. Shoot coverage efficiently with a two-camera setup if available, or one camera with careful blocking. Use natural performance and silence instead of expensive production design. Record the voice message cleanly on set or in ADR with a close, intimate mic. Keep crew small to preserve performance privacy and reduce cost.

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

