

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE BENCH IN THE PARK

3 Male (M + M + M) | Genre: Slice of Life/Family | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A late-afternoon conversation on a park bench becomes a quiet emotional reckoning when a father reveals an overseas move and his son's school project exposes the unspoken fears binding three generations together. With humor, hurt, and a simple family map, they find a compromise that keeps distance from becoming disconnection.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: warm, intimate, observational slice-of-life realism with golden-hour softness and minimal background distraction. • Thematic depth: family is shown as a living route, not a fixed place; silence, humor, and small gestures carry the emotional weight. • Pacing: restrained and conversational at first, then gradually tightening into emotional clarity before releasing into a gentle truce. • Performance style: naturalistic, with pauses, overlapping tension, and micro-expressions doing as much work as dialogue. • Camera philosophy: stay close to faces and hands, letting the bench become a pressure chamber where unspoken feelings surface. • Emotional arc: light banter -> defensive friction -> child's truth -> adult vulnerability -> soft reconciliation.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character_name: Hari age: 68 look: Retired bus conductor, worn sweater, cap, patient eyes, grounded posture, carries a folded newspaper. dramatic_arc: Begins as the teasing elder masking hurt with jokes, then reveals his fear of emotional distance, and ends in acceptance with a protective, affectionate compromise. • character_name: Vishal age: 40 look: Office worker with loosened tie, office bag, water bottle, tense but caring body language, slightly defensive face. dramatic_arc: Starts guarded and delayed, trying to justify the overseas move, then softens when confronted by his son's insight and finally accepts the emotional cost of leaving. • character_name: Om age: 14 look: School uniform, backpack at his feet, restless energy that settles into quiet seriousness, observant eyes. dramatic_arc: Begins as the restless middle presence, becomes the emotional translator through his family map, and emerges as the most mature voice in the scene.
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: A simple public park bench placed beside a walking path, with a distant swing set and a few blurred passersby in the background. The bench should feel slightly weathered, with visible wood grain and subtle wear on the edges to suggest everyday use. The ground around it should be natural park paving or packed earth with scattered leaves to catch the late-afternoon light. Trees must create a soft canopy that filters sunlight into dappled patterns across the bench and characters. Keep spatial layers minimal but readable: foreground bench, midground path, background swing set, and soft bokeh movement from passersby. The set should feel open yet emotionally enclosed, as if the bench is a temporary family room in public space.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Hari: Worn sweater and cap, practical and lived-in, with muted earthy tones that harmonize with the park. The cap should be a recognizable personal item he adjusts during the scene. Continuity: cap remains on or near his head, newspaper folded in hand, no costume change. • Vishal: Office attire with loosened tie, shirt slightly relaxed from a workday, office bag and water bottle as functional accessories. Colors should be subdued and professional. Continuity: tie stays loosened, posture shifts from rigid to relaxed as the scene progresses. • Om: School uniform, neat but slightly casual from after-school wear, backpack placed at his feet. The uniform should read as everyday and believable, not overly polished. Continuity: backpack is the source of the project folder and remains a key prop.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • Folded newspaper for Hari, used as a physical extension of his humor and deflection. • Cap worn by Hari, adjusted at the start and end of the scene. • Office bag carried by Vishal, signaling work pressure and the overseas opportunity context. • Water bottle carried by Vishal, a small everyday detail that grounds him in realism. • Backpack at Om's feet, containing the school project folder. • School project folder, opened on the bench as the emotional reveal prop. • Hand-drawn family map inside the folder, showing PARK BENCH -> HOME -> SCHOOL -> OFFICE -> AIRPORT. • Handwritten notes on the map: "Dada ke bina chai nahi", "Papa ke bina homework pending", "Om ke bina dono ka jhagda complete nahi". • Final handwritten line on the last page: "Family is not a place. Family is a way back."
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup natural and age-appropriate. Hari should have subtle age texture, soft under-eye shadows, and a lived-in complexion that catches warm sunlight. Vishal should show mild workday fatigue, slight forehead tension, and a realistic sheen that can read as stress in the golden light. Om should look fresh and youthful, with no heavy makeup, only slight outdoor warmth. SFX needs are minimal: a touch of sweat or skin glow for late-afternoon heat, gentle eye moisture for emotional beats, and subtle lighting reactions on faces as the sun shifts through trees.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Hari:** {'super_objective': 'To keep his son emotionally close without appearing needy or vulnerable.', 'subtext': 'I am hurt, but I will hide it behind jokes so the family can stay steady.'}
- **Vishal:** {'super_objective': 'To pursue the overseas opportunity without losing his father's trust or his son's sense of security.', 'subtext': 'I need this move to matter, but I am afraid it will make me look like I am abandoning you.'}
- **Om:** {'super_objective': 'To make the adults speak honestly and preserve the family connection he can already feel slipping.', 'subtext': 'You think I'm a child, but I can hear everything, and I need you both to stop pretending.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

HARI
Is bench pe bhi reservation hota hai kya?

VISHAL
Papa, aap na... har cheez pe joke.

HARI
Joke nahi beta. Experience.

VISHAL
Papa, main ek baat karna chahta tha.

HARI
Main bhi. Cricket score dekhna hai.



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

Use intimate, naturalistic coverage with 35mm and 50mm lenses for conversational proximity, plus a 70mm for emotional compression during the reveal and reconciliation. Favor eye-level framing, gentle push-ins, and restrained handheld or stabilized micro-movement to preserve realism without distraction. Keep compositions triangular to emphasize the three-generation dynamic, with the bench acting as a visual anchor. Let reaction shots breathe; the emotional power comes from pauses, glances, and the map reveal rather than coverage-heavy cutting.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Establishing golden-hour ambience with soft backlight through trees, dappled highlights on the bench, and a warm fill that keeps faces readable while preserving natural contrast.

Tier 2: Mid-scene emotional tension with slightly more directional key on faces, allowing subtle shadowing under brows and cheekbones to deepen the father-son conflict.

Tier 3: Final reconciliation with the warmest, softest wraparound light, reducing contrast and letting the family map and faces glow together in a calm, unified palette.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Ambient park tone with distant birds, faint footfalls on the walking path, occasional swing-set creaks, and blurred passerby movement in the background. Foley should emphasize newspaper folds, backpack zipper, folder opening, cap adjustment, and the subtle tap of the newspaper on the bench. Dialogue must sit close and intimate, with a natural outdoor acoustic profile that feels open but not echoey. Use silence strategically after key lines, especially around the map reveal and Hari's fear of distance.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm golden LUT with soft highlight roll-off and gentle contrast. Palette should favor amber sunlight, muted greens, earthy browns, and subdued office blues. Skin tones should remain natural and healthy, with emotional moments slightly deepened by richer midtones. Avoid overly saturated park greens; keep the image grounded and nostalgic, with the final frame feeling tender and quietly luminous.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
07:00 - 08:00	Location walk-through, bench placement, and background control	Direction, Art, Camera
08:00 - 09:30	Block & rig lighting for golden-hour continuity	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
09:30 - 10:30	Wardrobe, makeup, and prop continuity check	Wardrobe, Makeup, Art
10:30 - 12:00	Rehearsal of bench blocking and dialogue timing	Direction, Cast, Script Supervisor
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch and reset	All Departments
13:00 - 15:30	Principal photography: opening banter and overseas reveal	Camera, Sound, Direction
15:30 - 17:00	Principal photography: family map reveal and emotional resolution	Camera, Sound, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot entirely on one real park bench with controlled background traffic and minimal art dressing. Use natural golden hour as the primary light source, supplementing only with a bounce board and a small negative fill. Keep the cast to three performers and avoid extras except for soft background passersby. The family map can be hand-drawn on a single practical folder page, saving printing costs. Record clean production sound close to the actors to avoid heavy post work. Use one camera setup per emotional beat and prioritize performance over coverage. Wardrobe should come from everyday closet pieces with only continuity-managed details.

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

