

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THREE CALLS TO DAD

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE:

A father summons his two estranged sons to a late-night balcony meeting and stages a quiet test to see who truly understands the family workshop he built. What begins as suspicion and resentment turns into the first fragile step toward shared responsibility.

DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT:

- Visual tone: intimate, lived-in, nocturnal realism with warm indoor spill against cool night air and orange streetlamp glow.
- The balcony should feel like a pressure cooker: small, ordinary, and emotionally loaded, where every object carries memory.
- Pacing must be restrained and dialogue-driven, with pauses and silences doing as much work as the lines.
- The father's calm should read as controlled emotional intelligence, not sentimentality; the sons should contrast as polished restraint versus raw defensiveness.
- The ending should land softly, with reconciliation implied through behavior rather than declaration.
- Keep the camera observant and close, letting micro-reactions reveal the shifting power dynamic.

CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS:

- **character_name:** Prakash | **age:** 60 | **look:** White vest, reading glasses, weathered face, gentle stubbornness, physically settled but emotionally alert. | **dramatic_arc:** Begins as a quiet, unreadable father testing his sons; reveals that the meeting is not about illness but about judgment, legacy, and listening; ends as a calm arbiter who withholds the keys until both sons show mutual respect.
- **character_name:** Kunal | **age:** 36 | **look:** Formal shirt, polished shoes, controlled posture, office fatigue, bank-discipline in his body language. | **dramatic_arc:** Arrives in practical crisis-management mode, assuming a medical or financial emergency; gradually realizes he is being tested; softens from efficiency and control into reluctant emotional openness.
- **character_name:** Milan | **age:** 29 | **look:** Denim shirt, slightly disheveled hair, restless energy, resentment mixed with concern, less polished and more exposed. | **dramatic_arc:** Arrives defensive and wounded, expecting another lecture or comparison; pushes back against the father's test; finally allows a small surrender when he agrees to return in the morning and listen without anger.

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 small apartment balcony at night, designed as an intimate family threshold between private home and open city air. Warm indoor light spills from the apartment interior onto the balcony floor, creating a soft amber pool that fades into the cooler night edge. Below, the streetlamp casts an orange glow that adds depth and melancholy. The set should include a folding chair positioned as the emotional center, an ashtray with lived-in use, a tea glass, a potted plant with slight movement from the night breeze, and a mobile phone placed visibly as the catalyst object. Surfaces should feel slightly worn: painted concrete, a simple railing, and modest household textures that suggest years of use without clutter. Spatially, the balcony must feel small enough that the three men cannot avoid each other, yet open enough to allow the streetlamp and night air to breathe into the frame.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character_name: Prakash costume_details: White vest, reading glasses, simple homewear that signals comfort, age, and authority without performance. continuity_notes: Reading glasses should remain on or near him consistently; the white vest should stay visibly plain and unadorned throughout. • character_name: Kunal costume_details: Formal shirt and polished shoes, office-ready attire that still carries the fatigue of a long workday. continuity_notes: Keep the shirt neat and structured; any looseness should come only from emotional pressure, not costume change. • character_name: Milan costume_details: Denim shirt, slightly rumpled, with a lived-in, casual edge that contrasts Kunal's polish. continuity_notes: Hair should remain slightly bikhra hua; wardrobe should read as unforced and emotionally restless.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Mobile phone visual_details: An ordinary older phone placed on or near the balcony surface; the message screen must be visible in insert: 'Aaj raat mujhe call karna. Kuch zaroori hai. Sone se pehle.' • prop: Folding chair visual_details: Simple, practical chair that becomes the symbolic seat of authority and withholding; keys are later placed on it. • prop: Tea glass visual_details: A modest glass of tea, slightly cooled by the time of the climax; used as a quiet marker of domestic normalcy. • prop: Ashtray visual_details: Small, used ashtray that reinforces the balcony's lived-in realism and the father's habitual presence. • prop: Potted plant visual_details: A modest plant that sways slightly in the night breeze, adding softness and life to the frame. • prop: Workshop keys visual_details: The central symbolic object; held in Prakash's fist, then placed on the folding chair without being handed to either son.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup natural and age-appropriate. Prakash should have subtle under-eye texture, mild skin wear, and a lived-in nighttime look. Kunal should show office fatigue, slight sheen from stress, and restrained facial tension. Milan should carry a more raw, unguarded look with a touch of dishevelment and emotional heat. Add minimal sweat or skin shine only if needed to reflect the warm indoor spill and emotional pressure. No heavy SFX is required; the realism should come from micro-distress, tired eyes, and the way lighting reacts on skin and glasses.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character_name:** Prakash | **super_objective:** To make his sons finally listen to each other and understand the weight of the workshop as legacy, not just property. | **subtext:** I am not dying; I am trying to force a truth into the room before it is too late.
- **character_name:** Kunal | **super_objective:** To solve the problem efficiently and prove he is the responsible one. | **subtext:** If I can manage this like a professional issue, I can avoid the mess of family emotion.
- **character_name:** Milan | **super_objective:** To protect himself from being judged or compared while still wanting to be seen as worthy. | **subtext:** I expect another test, another lecture, another reminder that I am the difficult son.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

PRAKASH

Theek hai toh tum itni jaldi kyun aa gaye?

KUNAL

Main doctor ko call kar deta hoon. Aur agar kuch paperwork—

PRAKASH

Paperwork baad mein. Pehle baith.

MILAN

Wah. Dono ko ek hi line.

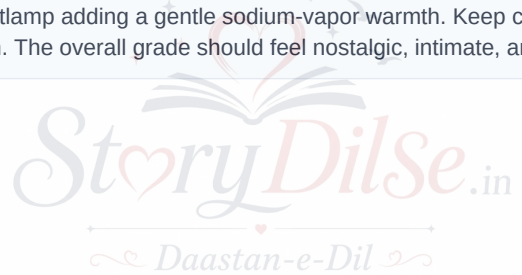
PRAKASH

Kal subah workshop ki keys kisi ek ko deni hain.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE: Use intimate, observational framing with a preference for medium close-ups, over-the-shoulders, and tight two-shots that preserve the emotional geometry of the balcony. Lenses should feel naturalistic, with a mild compression for closeness and a shallow depth of field to isolate reactions against the warm-cool night contrast. Camera movement should be minimal and deliberate: slow push-ins for revelations, static holds for tension, and subtle reframing when power shifts. The camera should never feel flashy; it should feel like it is listening.
2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC: 1) Opening: warm indoor spill from the apartment interior as key light, with the orange streetlamp below as a soft practical fill, creating a nostalgic but uneasy atmosphere. 2) Conflict phase: maintain warm key on faces but allow deeper shadow falloff around the balcony edges, emphasizing emotional distance and the smallness of the space. 3) Resolution: soften contrast slightly, keep the streetlamp glow visible, and let the tea-time calm read through balanced, gentle illumination without losing the night mood.
3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE: Prioritize intimate room tone, faint city ambience, and the soft hum of nighttime air. Foley should include the subtle clink of the tea glass, the light tap on the ashtray, the chair shift, the phone handling, and the faint rustle of the potted plant in the breeze. Dialogue should sit close and dry, with minimal reverb to preserve the balcony's enclosed intimacy. The street below should remain present but subdued, never overpowering the emotional exchange.
4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE: Use a warm amber-and-orange palette against muted night blues and charcoal shadows. Skin tones should remain natural, with the indoor spill giving a soft golden edge and the streetlamp adding a gentle sodium-vapor warmth. Keep contrast moderate, blacks slightly lifted for a lived-in realism, and avoid glossy saturation. The overall grade should feel nostalgic, intimate, and quietly melancholic.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Production meeting, blocking rehearsal, prop placement check	Direction, Cast, Art
09:30 - 11:00	Set dressing and continuity lock for balcony details	Art, Props, Wardrobe
11:00 - 12:30	Lighting rig and practicals test for warm spill and streetlamp glow	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
12:30 - 13:30	Camera tests, lens selection, framing rehearsal	Camera, Director, Script
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch and final continuity review	All Departments
14:30 - 16:30	Shoot dialogue coverage for Kunal arrival and first tension exchange	Camera, Sound, Cast
16:30 - 18:00	Shoot Milan entrance, confrontation, and workshop keys reveal	Camera, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot on a single practical balcony set with one controlled interior spill and one motivated exterior source. Use existing apartment architecture instead of building a full set. Keep props minimal and story-specific: chair, tea glass, ashtray, plant, phone, keys. Favor natural performance and coverage efficiency over complex camera moves. Use one or two versatile lenses and let blocking create variety. Record clean production sound on set to avoid expensive ADR. Dress the balcony with lived-in details rather than costly decoration; texture matters more than quantity. Schedule the emotional climax and final tableau in the same lighting setup to save time.

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

