

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

INVOICE NO. 7

2 Male + 1 Female (M + M + F) | Genre: Mystery/Crime | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek compact office cabin mein ek missing Invoice No. 7 ko lekar Sameer aur Imran blame game khelte hain, jab tak investor Naina unke lies, manipulated records, aur hidden truth ko ek deliberate due diligence test se expose nahi kar deti. Funding ke saath-saath unki integrity bhi stake par lag jaati hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: claustrophobic, suspicious, and procedural; a tight cabin that feels like a pressure cooker. • Thematic depth: truth vs convenience, business ethics, and how small lies become expensive liabilities. • Pacing: slow-burn interrogation that escalates through evidence, pauses, and micro-reactions rather than action. • Performance style: restrained, realistic, with tension built through silence, eye contact, and controlled speech. • Spatial storytelling: every prop on the table becomes a clue; the room itself should feel like a witness. • Emotional arc: from defensive denial to exposed shame, ending on a cold, unresolved silence.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Sameer age: 36 look: Rolled-up sleeves, ink-stained fingers, slightly stressed small-business-owner energy, physically restless. dramatic_arc: Starts as quick to deflect and blame, then becomes increasingly cornered as evidence tightens around him. By the end, his anger and shame surface together. • character: Imran age: 39 look: Tidy glasses, pristine shirt, calm exterior, controlled posture that slowly cracks under pressure. dramatic_arc: Begins polished and composed, using politeness as armor. As the invoice trail closes in, his calm turns brittle and defensive, revealing manipulation and fear. • character: Naina age: 31 look: Elegant blazer, alert gaze, leather folder held firmly, investor authority with quiet precision. dramatic_arc: Enters as a measured evaluator, then reveals herself as a due diligence specialist who has been testing them. She remains controlled throughout and delivers the final moral verdict.
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 compact office cabin with a tight, enclosed footprint and minimal breathing room. The desk should dominate the frame, with ledger book, invoice file, pen drive, and shredder bin all within arm's reach to create a visual interrogation zone. Use practical textures: worn tabletop edges, slightly dusty surfaces, paper clutter, and the matte plastic of the shredder bin. Blinds must cast blue city-light streaks across walls, faces, and the desk, contrasting with the warm desk lamp pool. The room should feel layered but cramped: foreground table clutter, midground actors, background blinds and wall shadows. Every surface should suggest routine office use under pressure, not a stylized crime den.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character: Sameer costume: Rolled-up sleeves, work-worn shirt with visible ink stains on fingers; practical, slightly rumpled business attire. continuity_notes: Keep sleeves rolled throughout. Ink-stained fingers must remain visible in all scenes. Shirt should read as used and stressed, not polished. • character: Imran costume: Tidy glasses and a suspiciously pristine shirt, neat and controlled in appearance. continuity_notes: Shirt should stay visibly cleaner than Sameer's wardrobe until tension subtly creases it. Glasses remain on throughout and should be adjusted during defensive beats. • character: Naina costume: Elegant blazer with a professional investor look, carrying a leather folder. continuity_notes: Her blazer should stay crisp and authoritative. Leather folder must remain in hand or on table as a recurring power object.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Ledger book details: A physical accounting ledger with a page showing Invoice No. 7 reference, including a cut and rewritten amount. • prop: Invoice file details: A file folder that is referenced as the place where the invoice was supposedly kept. • prop: Pen drive details: Placed on the table by Imran; should read as a key evidence object tied to the scanned invoice. • prop: Shredder bin details: Visible office shredder bin with paper scraps inside; one scrap must show part of Invoice No. 7. • prop: Paper scraps details: Torn shredded fragments, including a visible fragment with 'Invoice No. 7'. • prop: Leather folder details: Naina's folder, used to reveal incomplete records, the old agreement, and the stapled copy of Invoice No. 7. • prop: Stapled copy of Invoice No. 7 details: The final reveal prop, physically pulled from inside Naina's folder.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup naturalistic and tension-driven. Sameer should have slight sweat buildup at the temples and upper lip as the interrogation escalates. Imran should begin clean and controlled, then show subtle forehead tension, a tightening jaw, and a faint sheen on the pristine shirt collar area from stress. Naina should remain composed with minimal shine, but with sharp eye definition to emphasize alertness. No heavy SFX required; the main effect is progressive distress through skin sheen, facial tension, and tired eyes under mixed warm lamp and cool blue spill.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Sameer | **super_objective:** Protect the company and avoid being exposed as responsible for the missing invoice. | **subtext:** If I can redirect blame fast enough, I can survive this meeting.
- **character:** Imran | **super_objective:** Preserve his image of competence and keep his accounting decisions from being fully exposed. | **subtext:** If I stay calm, maybe my version of the truth will sound more credible.
- **character:** Naina | **super_objective:** Determine who is honest and whether the business deserves funding. | **subtext:** I already know enough; I'm waiting to see who breaks first.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

NAINA

((steady))

Invoice No. 7.

SAMEER

((too quick))

Mere paas tha. Abhi kal tak tha.

IMRAN

((calm, adjusting glasses))

Aur mere paas iski entry thi. Invoice gayab Sameer ne kiya.

NAINA

((raises hand))

Ek second. Main yahan blame game sunne nahi aayi. Invoice dikhao.

SAMEER

((awkward laugh))

File mein tha.



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

Use intimate, pressure-cooker framing with a preference for medium close-ups, tight two-shots, and insert shots of evidence. Lenses should feel observational and slightly compressed to intensify the cramped cabin. Camera movement philosophy: minimal but purposeful—slow pushes during revelations, static holds during lies, and precise insert cuts for ledger, pen drive, shredder scraps, and the final invoice reveal. The camera should behave like a silent interrogator, never decorative.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Establishment — warm desk lamp as the key source, with cool blue city-light spill through blinds creating a split-tone cabin.

Tier 2: Interrogation — increase contrast by letting faces fall into shadow as characters move away from the lamp; use practical motivated top-up only if needed.

Tier 3: Reveal/Climax — keep Naina slightly more readable than the men, with the invoice reveal catching warm lamp light while the rest of the room remains cool and tense. Maintain strong shadow lines from blinds throughout for a suspicious, cage-like effect.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Room tone should be tight and dry, with faint office ambience and distant city hush. Foley priorities: paper flips, ledger page turns, pen drive placement on table, shredder bin rustle, folder opening, and subtle chair shifts. Silence is a major sound element; use pauses after accusations to let tension land. The acoustic profile should feel enclosed, with small sounds amplified by the cabin's compactness.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a moody teal-and-amber split with restrained saturation. Warm desk lamp should lean amber-yellow, while blinds spill a cool blue from the city outside. Skin tones should remain natural but slightly desaturated to support the mystery tone. Shadows should be rich and deep, with contrast emphasizing the moral divide between polished appearances and hidden truth.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, art dressing, table prop layout	Art, Props, Camera
09:30 - 11:00	Block cabin geography and actor marks	Director, Camera, Cast
11:00 - 12:30	Rig desk lamp and blind-light pattern	Gaffer, Camera, Grip
12:30 - 13:00	Makeup, wardrobe continuity check	HMU, Wardrobe
13:00 - 15:30	Dialogue coverage and evidence inserts	Camera, Sound, Cast
15:30 - 17:00	Climax reveal and final silence beats	Director, Camera, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Shoot entirely in one real office cabin with practical desk lamp and window blinds to avoid expensive set builds. Use existing office furniture and dress only the table surface heavily. Keep the prop list limited to the exact script objects and reuse them in inserts. Rely on motivated practical lighting instead of large rigs. Capture tension through performance, framing, and sound rather than coverage-heavy setups. Use one camera, one key lens, and controlled blocking to maximize efficiency. For the shredder scraps and invoice reveal, shoot macro inserts separately with the same light setup to save time.

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

