

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

ROOFTOP REHEARSAL

2 Male + 1 Female (M + M + F) | Genre: Emotional Drama | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A rooftop rehearsal turns into an emotional reckoning when Kabir and Farhan discover the song they're struggling to perform was actually written by Ananya, the woman they each abandoned in different ways. As sunset slips into blue hour, the three are forced to confront the truth they've been hiding behind the word "practice."
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: intimate, restrained, and emotionally exposed; the rooftop should feel small against the city, making the characters' silence louder than the skyline. • Thematic depth: the scene is about avoidance, unfinished grief, and the cost of not listening; the song is only a vessel for the real confession. • Pacing: start with casual banter and rehearsal rhythm, then gradually tighten into pauses, glances, and interruptions until the final verse lands like a reveal. • Performance style: naturalistic Hinglish dialogue with micro-reactions, held beats, and uncomfortable stillness. • Spatial storytelling: keep Ananya slightly apart at first, then let her physically take control of the space by stepping forward, taking the guitar, and opening the notebook. • Emotional escalation: sunset warmth gives way to blue-hour coolness as the truth becomes harder to avoid. • Ending note: no melodramatic release; the power comes from quiet honesty and the absence of applause.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Kabir age: 28 look: Lean, nervous, denim jacket, worn notebook in hand, visibly tense and self-protective. dramatic_arc: Begins as the one trying to control the rehearsal and ends as the most emotionally exposed, realizing the song and the conflict are both rooted in his inability to face the truth. • character: Farhan age: 30 look: Casual, grounded, tired but hopeful eyes, guitar in hand, physically relaxed but emotionally alert. dramatic_arc: Starts as the supportive friend with teasing humor, then becomes the one who names Kabir's avoidance, finally collapsing into shame and apology when Ananya reveals the truth. • character: Ananya age: 27 look: Composed, light shawl, calm posture, initially set slightly apart from the others. dramatic_arc: Begins as a quiet observer, then becomes the emotional center by revealing authorship of the song and the history behind it, ending with controlled honesty and a clear demand for real conversation.
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:

A small rooftop with a practical, lived-in feel: low parapet walls, slightly weathered concrete floor, visible city skyline beyond, and laundry lines crossing the space to create layered depth. String lights should be rigged overhead but remain OFF until the reveal, then switch ON as the emotional truth surfaces. The rooftop should feel intimate and cramped, with enough room for the three actors to circle, pause, and separate physically. Textures should include rough concrete, soft fabric from the shawl and laundry, matte denim, and the worn surface of the notebook. The city background should remain distant and slightly soft, acting as a constant hum rather than a distraction.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Kabir:** Denim jacket, slightly worn and practical, reflecting his nervous, guarded energy. Keep continuity on sleeve-pulling behavior and the notebook in hand. No wardrobe change.
- **Farhan:** Casual, grounded clothing suitable for a rooftop rehearsal; the key continuity item is the guitar strap and his relaxed-but-tired presence. No wardrobe change.
- **Ananya:** Light shawl that reads soft and composed, with clean, understated styling. The shawl should remain consistent, and she should adjust it at the end when she steps back under the string lights.

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

- **prop:** Worn notebook | **details:** Must look used and personal, with visible handling. It is opened, closed, and later taken by Ananya.
- **prop:** Phone speaker | **details:** Small handheld phone speaker used by Kabir to play the rehearsal track; it is set aside by Ananya during the reveal.
- **prop:** Guitar | **details:** Acoustic guitar carried and tuned by Farhan; it is handed to Ananya and then returned to Farhan.
- **prop:** String lights | **details:** Practical rooftop lights that begin OFF and switch ON at the reveal, becoming a visual marker of truth and emotional exposure.
- **prop:** Laundry lines | **details:** Lightly moving lines in the wind, adding texture and a sense of suspended memory.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic and minimal. Add slight sweat and skin sheen appropriate to sunset-to-blue-hour rooftop heat and emotional tension. Kabir should read more strained as the scene progresses, with subtle under-eye fatigue and a cracked-voice performance feel. Farhan should remain grounded but increasingly tight in the jaw and around the eyes. Ananya should stay composed and clean, with her calmness emphasized by contrast rather than heavy makeup. No visible injury or heavy SFX; the distress is emotional, not physical.

~ Daastan-e-Dil ~

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Kabir | **super_objective:** To control the rehearsal so he does not have to confront the deeper truth behind the song. | **subtext:** If I can keep this about performance, I won't have to admit what I did, what I lost, or what I still feel.
- **character:** Farhan | **super_objective:** To push Kabir toward honesty while protecting the friendship from collapsing completely. | **subtext:** I'm joking because it's safer than saying how much this hurt me and how helpless I felt.
- **character:** Ananya | **super_objective:** To force the two men to stop hiding behind rehearsal and finally speak the truth. | **subtext:** I have waited long enough; if I speak now, it is not to punish, but to make them finally see me.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

KABIR

Theek hai... bas ek baar aur. Is baar seedha.

FARHAN

Haan, bhai. Seedha. Jaise tera life plan.

ANANYA

Main sirf sunne aayi hoon.

FARHAN

Breakup song hai ya apology letter?

FARHAN

Matlab tu har line mein kisi aur ko blame kar raha hai, aur har line ke baad khud ko bachaa raha hai.



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

Use intimate, observational framing with a restrained handheld or very subtle stabilized feel. Favor medium close-ups and close-ups as emotional pressure increases, while preserving the rooftop geography in wider shots at the start and end. Lenses should feel naturalistic: wider focal lengths for the rooftop environment and tighter lenses for confession beats and reaction shots. Camera movement philosophy: begin with gentle, almost casual coverage, then reduce movement as the truth lands, allowing stillness and eye-lines to carry the scene. Let the reveal feel earned through composition rather than coverage-heavy cutting.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Sunset base: warm, low-angle natural light with soft fill, preserving the rooftop's texture and the city skyline silhouette.
- 2) Blue-hour transition: cool ambient fill rises as the sun drops, creating a tonal shift from warmth to emotional chill; keep faces readable but slightly more contrasty.
- 3) Reveal and ending: practical string lights switch ON, adding a gentle golden layer against the blue-hour environment; use this contrast to isolate Ananya during the reveal and then keep all three in the same practical pool for the final silence.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Foreground the acoustic guitar tuning, string strums, notebook handling, and subtle phone speaker playback. Build a rooftop ambience with distant city hum, faint traffic wash, and wind moving through laundry lines. Use silence as a dramatic element after key lines, especially after the reveal and after the final verse. The acoustic profile should feel open-air and slightly hollow, with dialogue carrying naturally in the rooftop space.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Start with warm sunset oranges, muted ambers, and soft skin tones. As blue hour arrives, shift toward cooler cyan-blue shadows and desaturated midtones. The string lights should introduce a gentle tungsten gold that contrasts with the blue background. Keep the grade naturalistic, emotional, and slightly restrained rather than stylized; the palette should support honesty, not distract from it.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
15:30 - 16:30	Load-in, rooftop safety check, art dressing, prop placement	Production, Art, Grip
16:30 - 17:30	Block actors, tune guitar continuity, rehearse dialogue beats	Director, Cast, Sound
17:30 - 18:30	Shoot sunset rehearsal beats and opening banter	Camera, Lighting, Cast
18:30 - 19:15	Capture reveal sequence, string lights practical ON, emotional confrontation	Camera, Lighting, Cast, Sound
19:15 - 19:45	Shoot final silence, reaction close-ups, pickup inserts of notebook and guitar handoff	Camera, Cast, Art

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real rooftop location with practical city background instead of building a set. Rely on natural sunset and blue hour for the lighting arc, adding only minimal LED fill and practical string lights. Keep wardrobe simple and character-specific rather than costume-heavy. Use one guitar, one notebook, and one phone speaker as the only hero props. Shoot the scene in sequence if possible to preserve emotional continuity. Prioritize sound recording carefully, since the scene depends on dialogue and silence more than action.

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

