

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

ZERO GRAVITY TEA

2 Male + 1 Female (M + M + F) | Genre: Sci-Fi/High-Concept | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A sealed spacecraft observation module traps Dr. Veer, Maya, and Aman inside a seven-minute loop that resets their memories and exposes their deepest fears. As the trio realizes the mission is a hidden selection test, they must confront who gets erased, who gets remembered, and what remains of a person when memory is taken away.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Claustrophobic sci-fi chamber piece with emotional escalation inside a single location. • Visual tone: cold, sterile, ghostly blue instrumentation against human warmth revealed only in micro-behaviors and the tea pouch. • Pacing should feel cyclical and tightening: awkward comedy in the first pass, suspicion in the second, confession and dread in the final pass. • The window and starfield should feel unnaturally still, like a frozen ocean, reinforcing the loop and emotional paralysis. • Performance-first direction: small shifts in eye-lines, breath, posture, and repetition carry the drama more than physical action. • The tea pouch is the emotional anchor and visual motif; it should become more meaningful each time it reappears. • The ending should land as a philosophical gut-punch, not a twist for spectacle.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Dr. Veer age: 37 look: Precise, salt-and-pepper stubble, lab coat over casual wear, engineer-like stiffness, controlled posture. dramatic_arc: Begins as the rational authority reading the panel, then becomes increasingly shaken as the loop exposes his hidden safeguard and his need for control. By the end, his rigidity cracks into guilt and existential uncertainty. • character: Maya age: 33 look: Calm, intelligent, observant, tablet always in hand, composed face with a quiet intensity underneath. dramatic_arc: Starts as the most composed observer, gradually reveals she remembers more than the others, and finally admits she is both evaluator and emotionally attached. Her calm becomes a mask for desperation and moral conflict. • character: Aman age: 29 look: Athletic, restless, flight suit half-unzipped, physically fidgety, impulsive energy, always slightly off-balance. dramatic_arc: Introduced as comic and defensive, he becomes suspicious and volatile as memory resets repeat. His arc resolves in vulnerability when he admits his fear of being replaceable and erased.
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 sealed spacecraft observation module with a single dominant starfield window on one wall, designed to feel compact, airtight, and psychologically oppressive. The control panel should be the primary practical surface, with visible readouts, flicker-capable indicators, and a tactile, slightly worn interface suggesting repeated use. Soft blue instrument lighting should wash the space from below and from the panel, creating ghostly facial highlights and deep eye sockets. Floating dust motes must be visible in the light beams to emphasize stillness and zero-gravity suspension. Seating and frame elements should allow Aman to kick gently and drift, while Maya can float near center and Veer can anchor himself at the panel. Surfaces should be matte and slightly scuffed, with subtle metallic textures and utilitarian seams. The tea pouch should have a small clip point near Maya's tablet so it can drift upward naturally when the lights flare.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Dr. Veer:** Lab coat over casual wear, practical and slightly clinical. The coat should remain consistent across loops, with subtle wrinkles and stiffness that reinforce his controlled nature. Underlayers should read as engineer-functional rather than fashionable.
- **Maya:** Clean, mission-appropriate attire that allows her to float and move easily, with a tablet as her constant accessory. Wardrobe should stay visually calm and composed, matching her controlled exterior.
- **Aman:** Athletic flight suit, half-unzipped throughout the scene to reflect his restless, slightly careless energy. Continuity should preserve the half-open zipper as a recurring visual joke and character detail.

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

- **prop:** Control Panel | **details:** Primary hero interface with unstable readouts, flicker behavior, and audible beeps. Must be readable enough for Veer to react to it as a technical authority.
- **prop:** Tablet | **details:** Held by Maya throughout. Must display hidden diagnostics and later the file titled 'SELECTION PROTOCOL - RECURSIVE MEMORY STRESS'.
- **prop:** Tea Pouch | **details:** Small pouch clipped near Maya's tablet, capable of drifting upward in zero gravity. It is the emotional anchor and recurring motif.
- **prop:** Seat Frame | **details:** Aman can kick gently against it. Should feel like part of the capsule structure, not a separate chair.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup minimal and realistic, with subtle under-eye shadowing to enhance the blue instrument-light look. Add slight skin sheen for stress and enclosed-air discomfort. As loops progress, increase micro-distress: faint forehead tension on Veer, more visible agitation on Aman, and a barely perceptible emotional strain on Maya. No heavy SFX required; the main effect is lighting-reactive facial texture, breath, and fatigue accumulation across repeated loops.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Dr. Veer | **super_objective:** To preserve control and prove his system, and by extension himself, is reliable. | **subtext:** If I can explain it, I can survive it. If I lose control, I lose my identity.
- **character:** Maya | **super_objective:** To complete the evaluation while protecting what she is emotionally attached to. | **subtext:** I know more than I'm saying, and I'm trying to keep my feelings from ruining the test.
- **character:** Aman | **super_objective:** To prove he is not replaceable and not the weakest link. | **subtext:** If I'm not chosen, then I was never truly seen.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

AMAN
Kya yeh zero gravity hai ya hum log bas emotionally unanchored hain?
VEER
Don't start. Read the panel.
AMAN
Panel ko dekh ke lag raha hai panel bhi mujhe judge kar raha hai.
MAYA
Bas teen minute aur. Routine test hai. Relax.
AMAN
Doctor madam, aap "relax" tab bolti ho jab sabse zyada tension hoti hai.



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

Use intimate wides and compressed close-ups to trap the trio inside the module while preserving the geometry of the space. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for conversational tension, with occasional wider lenses to reveal the sealed environment and the starfield window. Camera movement should be restrained and floating, with subtle drift or slow push-ins that mimic zero gravity without becoming gimmicky. Repetition should be reinforced by repeating camera positions across loops, while tiny reframing changes signal the memory instability. Prioritize eye-line tension, reflections in the window, and the tea pouch drifting through frame as a recurring visual punctuation.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Base state: soft blue instrument lighting from the control panel and practical module sources, creating cool facial highlights and deep shadow pockets.
- 2) Glitch state: brief flicker, pulse, and flare events from the panel and overhead practicals to mark loop resets and memory instability.
- 3) Reveal state: slightly increased contrast and directional separation on faces during confession beats, allowing emotional truth to emerge while keeping the environment cold and sealed.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the soundscape from low module hum, faint ventilation, soft electronic beeps, and occasional panel thrums. Use subtle zero-gravity foley: fabric shifts, gentle seat-frame taps, floating object drift, and restrained breath. The starfield window should feel acoustically dead, emphasizing isolation. Each loop reset should have a distinct sonic cue: a flicker, a low pulse, then a hard cut back into the same room tone. The tea pouch should have a barely audible soft drift or clip rattle when it moves.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Cool cyan-blue dominant palette with steel-gray neutrals and minimal warm accents reserved for the tea pouch and skin tones. Use a clean sci-fi LUT with slightly lifted blacks for a floating, clinical feel, but preserve enough contrast for facial tension. In the final reveal, allow skin tones to warm subtly against the blue environment so emotional truth feels more human and exposed.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, capsule dressing, control panel rigging, starfield window prep	Art, Grip, Electric
09:30 - 10:30	Lighting pre-rig and instrument-light tests	Camera, Electric
10:30 - 11:15	Wardrobe, makeup, and continuity check	Wardrobe, Makeup, Script Supervisor
11:15 - 13:00	Loop 01 performance coverage	Director, Camera, Sound
13:00 - 13:30	Reset props, tea pouch continuity, panel flicker rehearsal	Art, Camera, Script Supervisor
13:30 - 15:30	Loop 02 and hidden-file reveal coverage	Director, Camera, Sound
15:30 - 17:00	Final confession and ending coverage	Director, Camera, Electric, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Shoot the entire film in one practical set with modular lighting changes to simulate loop resets. Use one starfield window insert or projection rather than building a full exterior. Keep the tea pouch as the only specialty prop with multiple continuity backups. Reuse the same blocking and camera positions across loops to save time and strengthen the narrative device. Rely on performance, sound design, and flicker cues instead of expensive VFX. If needed, create the hidden file and loop text as simple tablet screen graphics in post.

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

