

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE MIRROR CALL

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A cocky dare and a skeptical warning turn deadly when two men and a silent neighbor trigger a mirror challenge in a tiny bathroom, only to discover the mirror is not haunting them—it is forcing them to remember a death they buried. As reflections begin to move on their own, the room becomes a trap where truth, guilt, and the supernatural collapse into one another.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: claustrophobic, humid, and intimate horror with warm-bulb decay turning into cold supernatural dread. • Thematic depth: guilt as a haunting force; memory as punishment; the mirror as an archive of violence that living people are forced to unlock. • Pacing: starts with teasing banter and slow unease, escalates through micro-glitches and time-loss, then detonates into revelation and a final freeze of dread. • Performance style: restrained, conversational Hinglish that gradually fractures into panic and confession. • Camera language: tight framing, delayed reaction shots, and reflection-based compositions that make the audience question what is real. • Horror approach: no external monster reveal; the terror comes from behavior shifts, voice layering, and the mirror's impossible timing.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character_name: Harsh age: 27 look: Hoodie-wearing, cocky, trying to look unbothered; beard being adjusted, casual posture masking tension. dramatic_arc: Begins as the challenger and skeptic, then becomes defensive, confused, and finally horrified as his confidence collapses into guilt and self-incrimination. • character_name: Siddharth age: 29 look: Practical, anxious, holding a phone flashlight and a prayer thread; physically guarded and alert. dramatic_arc: Starts as the voice of caution, then gets pulled into the supernatural logic of the room, becoming increasingly destabilized as time slips and the mirror turns his own voice against him. • character_name: Leena age: 26 look: Wet hair, pale face, quiet and almost expressionless; stillness that feels unnatural and controlled. dramatic_arc: Enters as an eerie witness, then becomes the key to the room's buried memory, revealing herself as dead while remaining present through the mirror's retained imprint.
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 tiny bathroom/dressing room that feels overfilled by a single large mirror. The walls should be slightly stained, with moisture marks and a lived-in, cramped texture. The mirror must dominate the frame and feel like a fourth character. The dim warm bulb should be practical and visible, buzzing with a weak amber glow. The narrow window needs thin, rattling glass that can visibly tremble from wind. Add a small shelf near the sink for the water glass and comb, with enough clutter to suggest a private, everyday space now turned uncanny. Floor should read as slightly wet and reflective by the second half of the scene. Spatial layering must emphasize how little room the actors have to move, forcing bodies to overlap with reflections and doorframe edges.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Harsh:** Casual hoodie with the zip half open, worn as a confidence costume. Keep it consistent and slightly rumpled as tension rises. No major wardrobe change; the hoodie should become more oppressive as the scene progresses.
- **Siddharth:** Everyday casual clothing that allows him to hold the phone flashlight and prayer thread naturally. Wardrobe should feel practical and grounded, contrasting Harsh's performative cool.
- **Leena:** Simple, understated clothing with wet hair and a pale, damp look. Her wardrobe should not distract from her eerie stillness; continuity must preserve the wetness and the sense that she has just come from outside or from water.

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

- **prop:** BADA MIRROR | **details:** Large wall-mounted mirror, clean enough to reflect clearly but with subtle imperfections that catch light and movement delays.
- **prop:** Dim warm bulb | **details:** Practical bulb with visible buzz/flicker behavior; warm amber tone that can dim and flare during the reveal.
- **prop:** Phone flashlight | **details:** Held by Siddharth; must flicker at key moments to support the supernatural timing glitch.
- **prop:** Prayer thread | **details:** Tied around Siddharth's wrist; should be visible, tactile, and capable of appearing loosened or tugged by unseen force.
- **prop:** Water glass | **details:** Small glass on the shelf that can shift slightly, receive a drop, and crack in the final beat.
- **prop:** Comb | **details:** Placed near the sink; Leena picks it up and sets it back, linking the present room to the remembered incident.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Harsh and Siddharth should begin with normal night-time skin texture, then gradually show sweat, pallor, and stress shine as the room gets colder. Siddharth's face should read increasingly drained and tense, especially around the eyes. Leena needs pale makeup with a damp sheen, wet hair treatment, and a slightly desaturated complexion to make her feel like she belongs to the room's memory rather than its present. For the final reveal, all three should appear more distressed, with subtle under-eye darkness and moisture on skin to catch the bulb's flicker. No heavy gore is required; the horror is psychological and atmospheric.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Harsh:** {'super_objective': 'To prove he is not afraid and maintain control of the situation.', 'subtext': 'He is terrified of looking weak, and his bravado is a shield against guilt he does not want to name.'}
- **Siddharth:** {'super_objective': 'To keep everyone safe and stop the challenge before it becomes real.', 'subtext': 'He senses danger early, but his fear is mixed with the suspicion that he already knows more than he admits.'}
- **Leena:** {'super_objective': 'To force the truth to surface and make the living remember what happened.', 'subtext': 'Her calmness is not emptiness; it is the stillness of someone who has already crossed over and now speaks only through the room's memory.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

HARSH

Arre yaar, viral challenge hai. Bas mirror ke saamne naam bolo aur sawaal pucho. Simple.

SIDDHARTH

Simple? Bhai, horror videos mein bhi log "simple" bolke hi marte hain.

LEENA

Practical log hi pehle jaate hain.

HARSH

Kaun sabse zyada dar raha hai?

SIDDHARTH

Maine nahi bola.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use tight lenses and compressed framing to make the bathroom feel smaller than it is. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for intimate dialogue, with occasional 85mm close-ups for fear reactions and reflection distortions. Keep the camera mostly static or with very subtle handheld drift, so any movement feels like a disturbance. Prioritize mirror compositions, over-the-shoulder angles that include reflections, and delayed reaction inserts to sell the time-slip effect. Movement philosophy: observe first, then intrude only when the room's logic breaks.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Warm practical baseline from the dim bulb, creating a cramped amber environment with soft shadows and visible falloff.

Tier 2: Cold intrusion through the window and flashlight flicker, introducing contrast, edge light, and intermittent instability as the supernatural presence grows.

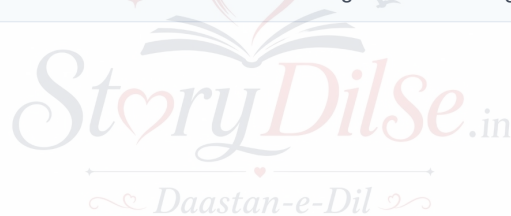
Tier 3: Reveal state with bulb dimming/flaring, deeper shadow density, and reflective bounce from the mirror to isolate faces and make reflections feel active. Keep the final look slightly underexposed so the mirror remains readable while the room feels swallowed by darkness.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the soundscape from a constant bulb buzz, faint room tone, and the periodic rattle of the window glass. Add subtle wet footstep and drip foley, a small glass shift, and the tactile rustle of the prayer thread. The phone flashlight flicker should be supported by tiny electrical ticks. Voices in the mirror must layer and phase slightly, with wet, close-mic texture and delayed duplication. The final whisper should feel intimate, almost inside the listener's ear.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Start with a warm, sickly amber palette that feels domestic but stale. As the scene progresses, drain saturation and push cooler shadows into the blacks, especially around the mirror and window. Skin tones should remain slightly pallid and stressed, with highlights on wet hair, sweat, and glass. The final grade should preserve warm bulb color while letting the surrounding darkness turn green-gray and deadened.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, mirror placement, practical bulb test, window rattle rig	Art, Grip, Electric
09:30 - 10:30	Wardrobe continuity check, makeup and wet-hair prep	Wardrobe, Makeup
10:30 - 11:30	Blocking rehearsal with mirror eyelines and reflection marks	Director, Cast, Camera
11:30 - 13:00	Dialogue coverage for opening banter and challenge setup	Camera, Sound
14:00 - 15:30	Supernatural escalation scenes: flicker, time-slip, voice layering	Camera, Sound, Electric
15:30 - 17:00	Final reveal, mirror reaction shots, bulb dim/flair, blackout ending	Camera, Electric, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Shoot in a real small bathroom or dressing room to avoid building walls. Use one strong practical bulb, a cheap flicker dimmer, and a phone flashlight for motivated light sources. Create the wind effect with a small off-camera fan aimed at the window glass. Use the mirror as a production multiplier by planning shots that capture both actor and reflection in one setup. Keep props minimal: one glass, one comb, one prayer thread. For the supernatural voice, record layered dialogue in a closet or untreated room for a wet, intimate texture. Limit coverage by designing the blocking around a few precise angles that can carry the whole scene.

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

