

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

ONE SEAT LEFT

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek railway waiting room ya bus shelter mein sirf ek khali chair ko lekar do aadmi apne-apne proof, ego aur urgency ke saath takra jaate hain. Jab attendant reveal karti hai ki seat unki nahi, uski lunch break ki thi, tab unka poorra drama ek sharp, hilarious reality check mein badal jaata hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Pure comedy should feel observational, not broad—humor nikalna chahiye petty ego, deadpan authority, aur everyday bureaucracy se. • Visual tone: bright daylight, dusty shadows, slightly cramped frame, with the empty chair as the comic battlefield. • Pacing: quick verbal escalation, then a clean pause for the reveal, then a dry, embarrassed aftermath. • Performance style: grounded realism with heightened timing; Ritu's deadpan should anchor the scene. • Theme: entitlement vs patience, and how small public spaces become ego arenas. • Keep blocking simple and readable so the audience always understands who "owns" the chair at any moment.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Manish age: 44 look: Formal shirt, tired eyes, newspaper in hand, office-commuter energy, slightly rumpled from the morning rush. dramatic_arc: Starts as a polite but stubborn commuter who believes paperwork and screenshots justify his claim. By the end, he is visibly embarrassed, humbled, and forced to confront how ridiculous his urgency looked. • character: Tushar age: 26 look: Loud confidence, backpack, earphones, coffee cup, startup-bro swagger, always slightly too animated for the room. dramatic_arc: Begins as a hyper-confident app-first guy who weaponizes tech language and proof. Ends as a deflated, self-aware young man whose 'system' logic collapses under Ritu's calm authority. • character: Ritu age: 38 look: Efficient attendant with whistle and ticket pouch, practical presence, sharp eyes, no-nonsense posture. dramatic_arc: She controls the room from the start, turning the seat dispute into a test of manners. Her reveal and final line deliver the comic verdict, restoring order with dry sarcasm.
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 railway waiting room or bus shelter with a utilitarian, slightly worn look. Plastic chairs line one wall; one chair remains visually isolated as the focal point. A crooked route board hangs overhead, and a small ticket counter window sits to one side. The ceiling fan should wobble slightly to add lived-in realism. Windows or open sides must allow bright daylight to cut through dusty air, creating visible floating particles. Surfaces should feel matte, a little grimy, and sun-faded. The counter area should have enough depth for Ritu to stand, check tickets, and pull the tiffin bag from behind it. Spatial layering matters: foreground chair, mid-ground argument zone, background route board and counter, so the audience can track the power shifts.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Manish:** Formal office shirt, slightly tired and unpressed by morning travel. Keep continuity on newspaper in hand, phone, and office ID card. Shirt should read as commuter practical, not stylish.
- **Tushar:** Casual startup look with backpack, earphones, and a coffee cup. Clothing should feel energetic and slightly overconfident. Maintain continuity of phone, coffee cup, and backpack straps.
- **Ritu:** Attendant uniform or practical working clothes consistent with whistle and ticket pouch. She should look functional, alert, and unbothered. Keep whistle visible and pouch accessible throughout.

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

- One empty plastic chair, clearly the central comic object
- Newspaper for Manish, foldable and usable as a claim marker and fan
- Phone with screenshot/app booking proof for Manish
- Phone with QR code, receipt, and transaction ID proof for Tushar
- Backpack for Tushar
- Earphones for Tushar
- Coffee cup for Tushar
- Whistle for Ritu
- Ticket pouch for Ritu
- Tickets/slips for both men
- Office ID card for Manish
- Tiffin bag for Ritu
- Lunch box inside tiffin bag
- Route board in background
- Ticket counter window in background

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and realistic. Manish should have mild under-eye fatigue and a slightly stressed commuter sheen. Tushar can have a fresh but rushed look, with a bit of morning shine and animated energy. Ritu should appear sharp and composed, with minimal makeup and a practical working-day finish. Add subtle sweat or heat distress to both men as the argument escalates. Dusty daylight should react on skin with soft highlights, especially on foreheads, noses, and hands. No heavy SFX required; the comedy comes from performance and situation, not prosthetics.

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Manish:** {'super_objective': 'To secure dignity and priority in a public space where he feels entitled to order.', 'subtext': 'I am tired, I am right, and I need this seat to validate my morning struggle.'}
- **Tushar:** {'super_objective': 'To win the seat by proving he is smarter, faster, and more technologically correct.', 'subtext': 'If I can prove the system supports me, I don't have to admit I'm just being pushy.'}
- **Ritu:** {'super_objective': 'To restore order and expose the absurdity of ego-driven conflict.', 'subtext': 'I've seen this nonsense before, and I will end it with one clean truth.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

MANISH

Excuse me... yeh seat maine reserve ki thi.

TUSHAR

No chance, uncle. Yeh meri seat hai.

MANISH

Proof?

TUSHAR

Same. QR code, receipt, transaction ID. Full startup-grade proof.

RITU

Wah. Dono ke paas proof hai. Seat ke paas koi seat nahi hai.



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

Use a grounded, observational camera language with mostly eye-level framing and clean coverage so the comedy plays in performance and timing. Start with a wider establishing frame that clearly isolates the single empty chair, then move into tighter two-shots and over-the-shoulders as the argument escalates. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for natural perspective, with occasional close-ups on proof items, whistle, and the chair. Camera movement should be minimal and motivated—small push-ins for escalation, static holds for deadpan punchlines, and a deliberate pause on the reveal.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Establishing daylight: bright, directional sunlight through dusty windows, with soft ambient fill to keep the room readable.
- 2) Conflict escalation: maintain daylight base but add slightly stronger contrast on faces so reactions and sarcasm pop; keep the background a touch flatter to isolate the argument.
- 3) Reveal and aftermath: preserve the same natural light, but allow the empty chair and Ritu's lunch setup to catch a clean highlight, making the punchline visually obvious. The overall plan should feel like real morning light, not stylized comedy lighting.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Ceiling fan wobble should be a constant sonic bed. Add light room tone, distant station or roadside ambience, and subtle chair squeaks, paper folds, phone taps, ticket rustles, and whistle blasts. The coffee cup, tiffin bag, and newspaper should all have distinct foley textures. Dialogue must stay crisp and dry, with pauses emphasized so punchlines land. The acoustic profile should feel slightly echoey and public, like a small waiting room with hard surfaces.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Naturalistic LUT with warm daylight highlights and muted, dusty midtones. Keep whites slightly sun-bleached and shadows soft brown-gray to reflect the dusty room. Skin tones should remain natural, with a gentle warmth on faces. The palette can lean toward faded beige, plastic-chair blue, commuter shirt neutrals, and the occasional accent from Ritu's whistle or Tushar's coffee cup. Avoid overly saturated comedy colors; the humor should come from contrast between ordinary realism and absurd behavior.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Load-in, set dressing, chair placement, route board and counter dressing	Art, Grip, Camera
09:00 - 09:45	Lighting setup for daylight simulation and dust visibility	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
09:45 - 10:15	Wardrobe, makeup, prop continuity check	Wardrobe, Makeup, Props
10:15 - 11:30	Blocking and rehearsal of seat dispute beats	Director, Cast, Camera
11:30 - 13:00	Shoot confrontation coverage and proof/ticket inserts	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 13:30	Shoot reveal, lunch break chair beat, final reaction shots	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot in a real waiting room or bus shelter with minimal dressing and use available daylight. Keep the set to one room and one hero chair to control continuity. Use practical props only: newspaper, phone, tickets, whistle, pouch, tiffin. Limit camera setups to a few efficient angles and let performance carry the comedy. Dust in sunlight can be enhanced with simple atmospheric haze if safe and permitted, but even natural dust can work. Record clean room tone and foley separately to make the space feel fuller in post. Avoid crowd extras; the emptiness of the room is part of the joke.

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

