

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE BALCONY AGREEMENT

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek shared apartment balcony par teen adults chhoti-chhoti cheezon ko ego war bana dete hain—chair, cigarette, aur laundry line. Lekin jab Shweta unke liye pehle se likha hua 'Balcony Agreement' kholti hai, toh petty comedy dheere-dheere unke andar chhupi loneliness aur work pressure ki sachchai tak pahunch jaati hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: warm, intimate, slightly theatrical comedy with a lived-in balcony that feels like a tiny battlefield. • Thematic depth: petty domestic control ke neeche chhupi emotional avoidance; rules are a mask for loneliness and stress. • Pacing: fast, banter-driven escalation in the first half; a clean pause on the agreement reveal; then a softer, more honest comedic landing. • Performance style: grounded realism with heightened comic timing—every line should feel absurdly serious to the characters. • Spatial storytelling: the balcony layout itself is the joke—left/right, line/space, inside/outside become emotional territories. • Ending mood: not a big emotional explosion, but a quiet, satisfying thaw.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character_name: Deepak age: 40 look: Vest over T-shirt, disciplined posture, always positioned like he is guarding the balcony rules. dramatic_arc: Starts as the self-appointed enforcer of balcony etiquette; gradually reveals that his rigidity is a shield for work pressure and fear of speaking honestly. • character_name: Jatin age: 37 look: Shorts and slippers, relaxed but provocative body language, cigarette pack always in hand or pocket. dramatic_arc: Begins as the carefree rule-breaker mocking Deepak; ends by admitting his balcony habit is really a response to loneliness and emotional noise inside the flat. • character_name: Shweta age: 39 look: Stylish homewear, sharp eyes, broom used like a scepter; calm authority with comic precision. dramatic_arc: Enters as the peacekeeper and becomes the hidden architect of the agreement; her arc is the reveal that she understands both men better than they understand themselves.
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 compact shared apartment balcony with clear territorial geometry. Use hanging plants that droop slightly to suggest neglect and time. Laundry lines should crisscross the frame like invisible borders, with a few clothespins and partially hung clothes creating visual clutter. The iron grills must be visible and catch the warm streetlight glow from outside. The chair is a hero set piece and should always feel slightly over-precise in placement. Floor should be practical, slightly dusty, with enough room for the broom to be planted like a marker. The balcony must feel narrow enough that every movement is a negotiation. Add subtle interior spill from the apartment door to contrast the exterior streetlight warmth.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Deepak:** Vest over T-shirt, practical homewear with a slightly formal, controlled feel. Keep continuity clean and neat to reflect his obsession with order.
- **Jatin:** Shorts and slippers, casual and slightly rebellious. Cigarette pack should be easy to access from pocket or hand. Wardrobe should feel relaxed and unbothered.
- **Shweta:** Stylish homewear with a sharper silhouette than the men's outfits. She should look composed and capable, with the broom visually matching her authority.

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

- Chair: one simple balcony chair, always placed left side initially, then nudged right by Jatin.
- Cigarette pack: held by Deepak and Jatin; later snatched by Shweta as evidence.
- Cigarette: lit by Jatin during the argument.
- Broom: Shweta's peacekeeping tool, planted firmly like a scepter.
- Handwritten agreement paper: multiple pages, dense handwriting, visibly folded and pulled from behind the broom.
- Laundry clips: used on the line; one clip is adjusted at the end by Jatin.
- Laundry line and hanging clothes: must be present as visual territory markers.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and domestic. Add slight evening sheen/sweat on foreheads to support the warm balcony atmosphere. Deepak can have a faint stressed look around the eyes; Jatin can appear slightly wind-tousled and casual; Shweta should remain fresh, composed, and sharp. No heavy SFX required. Lighting should react naturally on skin with warm highlights and soft shadowing through the grills.

Daastan-e-Dil

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Deepak:** {'super_objective': 'To maintain control so he does not feel emotionally exposed.', 'subtext': 'If I keep the rules tight, nobody will notice how overwhelmed I am.'}
- **Jatin:** {'super_objective': 'To protect his freedom and avoid feeling trapped by domestic seriousness.', 'subtext': 'If I joke and break rules, I don't have to admit I'm lonely.'}
- **Shweta:** {'super_objective': 'To force honesty by turning their nonsense into structure.', 'subtext': 'I already know what you're both hiding; I'm making you face it without letting you escape.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

DEEPAK

((very serious))

Yeh chair left side pe hi rahegi.

JATIN

Kyun? Balcony ka GST bhara hai kya tune?

DEEPAK

Arre! Touch mat kar. Yeh alignment hai.

JATIN

Tu rules follow nahi, rules invent kar raha hai.

SHWETA

Aur mujhe tum dono ko broom se shaant karna chahiye.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a compact, observational camera language that treats the balcony like a pressure cooker. Favor medium wides to preserve the spatial joke, then push into close-ups when ego cracks appear. Lenses should feel intimate: wider focal lengths for territorial comedy, slightly longer lenses for the reveal and emotional beats. Camera movement philosophy: mostly restrained and motivated, with small push-ins on punchlines and the agreement reveal. Let blocking do the comedy; let the camera quietly witness the shift from absurdity to honesty.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Warm evening ambient from the streetlight outside the grills, creating a soft amber wash and gentle shadow bars across faces and walls.

Tier 2: Practical interior spill from the apartment doorway to separate inside from balcony and support the emotional 'escape' theme.

Tier 3: Controlled accent on the chair, broom, and agreement paper during key beats, with slightly stronger contrast at the reveal so the paper becomes a visual pivot. Maintain soft, flattering skin tones throughout and avoid harsh comedy lighting.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Foley should emphasize chair nudges, broom taps, clothespin clicks, cigarette pack flicks, and the subtle rustle of laundry in a breeze. Ambient room tone should include distant street noise, faint neighborhood chatter, and occasional traffic hum. The balcony should sound enclosed but not silent, with the grills and walls creating a mild acoustic box. Silence is important at the reveal and after the emotional admissions.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm, amber-leaning LUT with soft contrast and slightly muted saturation. The palette should favor streetlight yellow, balcony rust, plant green, and neutral homewear tones. Keep skin tones natural and gently glowing. Increase warmth and softness toward the ending to make the balcony feel less like a battleground and more like a confession space.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Recce, set dressing, chair placement, laundry line dressing	Art, Direction
09:30 - 10:30	Wardrobe prep, props lock, agreement paper continuity check	Costume, Props, Script Supervisor
10:30 - 11:30	Camera and lighting rig, grill-shadow tests, warm practical balance	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
11:30 - 12:15	Blocking rehearsal for chair, broom, and laundry line interactions	Director, Cast, AD
12:15 - 13:30	Shoot argument escalation and chair/cigarette beats	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:30 - 14:15	Shoot agreement reveal and emotional honesty beats	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:15 - 15:00	Shoot ending beat, chair reset, laundry clip fix, final wide	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use a real balcony location with minimal dressing and rely on existing grills, plants, and laundry for texture. One chair, one broom, one cigarette pack, and one printed agreement page can carry the entire scene. Shoot mostly in natural evening light with one warm practical source to save on lighting. Keep camera coverage efficient: master, two mediums, and selective close-ups. Use sound design to amplify tiny actions so the comedy feels bigger than the budget. Let performance and blocking create production value.

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

