

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE SECRET RECIPE

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

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| <p><b>OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE:</b></p> <p>A tiny restaurant kitchen turns into a comic battlefield when owner Bharat and chef Naveen fight over who invented the signature dish, only for sharp-tongued food critic Lata to reveal the recipe belongs to her nani. In one absurd night, ego, legacy, and laughter get plated together under the stove's orange glow.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION &amp; TONAL CONCEPT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visual tone: warm, cramped, theatrical kitchen comedy with exaggerated reactions and a lived-in, greasy realism.</li><li>• Thematic depth: ownership vs legacy, ego vs humility, and how food carries memory beyond credit.</li><li>• Pacing: fast verbal sparring in the first half, deliberate suspense during Lata's tasting, then a clean comic release after the reveal.</li><li>• Performance style: heightened but grounded; Bharat is full-volume bravado, Naveen is sharp defensive wit, Lata is calm authority.</li><li>• Camera language: tight framing to trap the characters in the argument, then slightly wider compositions once the truth deflates their egos.</li><li>• Comedy rhythm: let pauses breathe after punchlines and especially after Lata's "Hm" and reveal beats.</li><li>• Emotional finish: end on shared laughter and collaborative plating, not victory.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>CAST AT A GLANCE &amp; CHARACTER ARCS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>character_name:</b> Bharat   <b>age:</b> 50   <b>look:</b> Restaurant owner in an apron, moustache constantly twisted into a heroic pose, expressive face, dominant posture, slightly sweaty from the kitchen heat.   <b>dramatic_arc:</b> Begins as possessive and theatrical, claiming the dish through ownership and ego; is exposed as overconfident and emotionally reactive; ends humbled, accepting that the recipe's true credit belongs to nani and that collaboration matters more than control.</li><li>• <b>character_name:</b> Naveen   <b>age:</b> 27   <b>look:</b> Young chef in a stained white coat, holding a ladle like a weapon, alert eyes, defensive stance, quick gestures, slightly underdog energy.   <b>dramatic_arc:</b> Starts as sharp, sarcastic, and combative, insisting he created the recipe; escalates with evidence and emotional attachment; ends embarrassed but wiser, recognizing legacy over personal ownership and joining Bharat in plating together.</li><li>• <b>character_name:</b> Lata   <b>age:</b> 45   <b>look:</b> Composed food critic in smart casuals, notebook in hand, calm face with an amused smile, controlled body language, quietly intimidating presence.   <b>dramatic_arc:</b> Enters as an observer and evaluator, lets the men expose themselves through conflict, then reveals she is reviewing them as people; ends as the authority who restores truth, assigns the dish to nani, and delivers the final comic verdict.</li></ul> |
| <p><b>FESTIVAL &amp; AUDIENCE TARGET:</b> Ideal for Short Film Festivals, Indie Showcases, and YouTube Creator Channels. Focus on tight performances, sound design, and authentic Hinglish dialogue delivery.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## SET ARCHITECTURE &amp; PROPS

## STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

## DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE &amp; PROP MASTER

## 1. SET DESIGN &amp; SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

A tiny restaurant kitchen after closing, built to feel tight, warm, and slightly chaotic. The space should have narrow walkways, a counter with visible wear, a stove emitting orange practical glow, and hot overhead lights that flatten and intensify the scene at once. Surfaces should show grease, fingerprints, spice dust, and old cooking residue. The recipe notebook should live on the counter as a central visual anchor. Spice jars should be arranged in a way that can be quickly lined up as evidence. Add layered depth with hanging utensils, a small prep shelf, a sink edge, and a closed door for Lata's entrance. The kitchen should feel functional but emotionally charged, like a courtroom disguised as a food prep space.

## 2. COSTUME &amp; WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Bharat:** Apron over practical restaurant clothing, slightly rumpled and kitchen-worn. Moustache is a key styling element and should be groomed enough to support his heroic self-image. Continuity note: apron should show consistent use and minor stains, but not change drastically between beats.
- **Naveen:** Stained white chef coat, visibly used and imperfect, suggesting long hours and low-budget kitchen life. He should hold the ladle naturally like a defensive prop. Continuity note: coat stains and creases should remain consistent throughout, reinforcing his working-chef identity.
- **Lata:** Smart casuals that feel polished but not flashy, suitable for a critic who can walk into a kitchen and immediately take control of the room. Notebook is part of her look. Continuity note: her outfit should stay clean and composed, contrasting the kitchen grime and the men's heat.

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

- **prop:** Recipe notebook | **visual\_details:** Old, grease-stained, with a worn page that Bharat reveals as the supposed original. The page must visibly feel aged and disputed.
- **prop:** Ladle | **visual\_details:** Held by Naveen like a defensive weapon; later Bharat uses it like a gavel. It should be metallic and kitchen-authentic.
- **prop:** Spice jars | **visual\_details:** A set of jars that Naveen lines up as evidence. They should be distinct enough to read as a lineup of ingredients.
- **prop:** Notebook for Lata | **visual\_details:** Clean, professional notebook used for tasting notes and the final review reveal.
- **prop:** Plate of the signature dish | **visual\_details:** The final plated dish for Lata's tasting; should look appetizing and consistent with a restaurant signature item, without inventing new ingredients on screen.
- **prop:** Old bill | **visual\_details:** One of Bharat's proof items, visibly aged and handled often.
- **prop:** Oily napkin with rough sketch | **visual\_details:** A greasy napkin with a rough sketch used as comic evidence in Bharat's proof list.

## 4. PRACTICAL SFX &amp; MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic but reactive to heat and stress. Bharat and Naveen should show light sweat, slight shine on forehead and upper lip, and subtle under-eye tiredness from a late-night kitchen shift. Bharat's moustache should remain crisp but slightly damp at the edges from the heat. Naveen can have a bit more visible perspiration and a slightly disheveled look as the argument escalates. Lata should remain composed, with minimal shine and controlled makeup, only a faint kitchen warmth catching on her skin. No heavy SFX required; the comedy comes from performance, heat, and timing rather than transformation.

## ACTOR MASTERCLASS &amp; HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

## STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

## DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS &amp; CASTING DIRECTOR

## STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT &amp; CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character\_name:** Bharat | **super\_objective:** To protect his authority, ownership, and pride by proving the dish belongs to him. | **subtext:** If I lose credit for this dish, I lose status, control, and the identity I built around the restaurant.
- **character\_name:** Naveen | **super\_objective:** To reclaim authorship and dignity by proving his creative contribution is real. | **subtext:** I may be younger and underpaid, but this recipe carries my imagination, and I need that truth recognized.
- **character\_name:** Lata | **super\_objective:** To expose the truth, judge the men's character, and restore the recipe's rightful legacy. | **subtext:** I already know more than they do; I'm letting their ego reveal itself before I deliver the verdict.

## CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

**BHARAT**

Bas! Aaj final decide hoga.

**NAVEEN**

Haan. Decide ho jaaye. Ki aapka ego bada hai ya meri recipe.

**BHARAT**

Meri restaurant hai. Meri nameplate hai. Toh dish bhi meri.

**NAVEEN**

Dish aapki hoti toh taste mein thoda toh budget hota.

**BHARAT**

Yeh signature dish maine invent kiya. Jab tu paida bhi nahi hua tha na, tab se mera dimaag chal raha tha.



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

Use tight 35mm and 50mm coverage for the argument to keep the kitchen claustrophobic and the egos oversized. Favor eye-level close-ups, over-the-shoulders, and compressed two-shots that trap Bharat and Naveen in the same frame whenever possible. During Lata's entrance, introduce a slightly wider lens to let her control the room. Use subtle handheld movement for comic tension, but keep Lata's moments steadier to reflect her authority. Push in slowly on the tasting beats and the reveal, then relax into a wider, warmer frame for the final shared laugh.

**2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:**

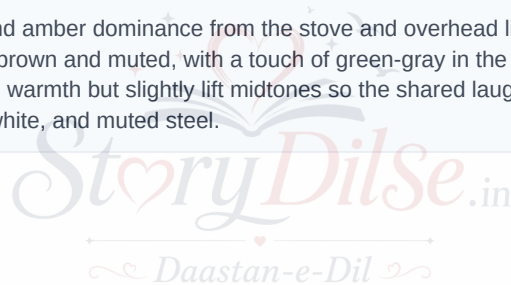
- 1) Base kitchen look: hot overhead practicals with a strong orange stove glow as the emotional anchor, creating a warm but slightly harsh late-night atmosphere.
- 2) Conflict escalation: increase contrast with harder shadows under brows and cheekbones, emphasizing sweat, tension, and the cramped space; keep Lata slightly cleaner and more readable than the men.
- 3) Reveal and resolution: soften the overall contrast a touch, allowing the orange glow to feel welcoming rather than aggressive; preserve practicals but open the faces enough for the final laughter and collaborative plating.

**3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:**

Kitchen room tone should include faint refrigerator hum, distant metal clinks, soft gas-stove hiss, and occasional utensil taps. Foley should emphasize the recipe notebook slap on the counter, ladle hits, spice jar placements, page flips, and the subtle scrape of the plate during tasting. Lata's notebook closes with a crisp, authoritative snap. Dialogue should sit dry and intimate, with the small room making every insult land sharply. The final laugh should bloom naturally in the room, with the stove hiss and ambient kitchen tone still present underneath.

**4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:**

Warm tungsten-heavy grade with orange and amber dominance from the stove and overhead lights. Skin tones should feel slightly toasted and sweaty, not glossy. Shadows can lean brown and muted, with a touch of green-gray in the kitchen corners to preserve the cramped, after-hours feel. The final beat should retain warmth but slightly lift midtones so the shared laughter feels open and satisfying. Overall palette: orange, amber, grease-brown, off-white, and muted steel.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

| TIME          | ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK                                                   | KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED           |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 08:00 - 09:00 | Load-in, kitchen dressing, prop placement, and continuity check          | Art, Props, Wardrobe               |
| 09:00 - 10:30 | Block the argument beats and mark Lata entrance path                     | Director, Cast, Assistant Director |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Rig hot overheads and stove practicals; test contrast and shadow control | Camera, G&E;                       |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | Shoot Bharat-Naveen confrontation coverage                               | Camera, Sound, Cast                |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Shoot Lata entrance, tasting, and reveal beats                           | Camera, Sound, Cast                |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | Shoot final plating, review lines, and laughter ending                   | Camera, Art, Cast                  |

**LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:**  
Use one real kitchen location and lean into its existing grime and practical lights instead of building a set from scratch. Keep the whole film in one room with minimal company moves. Use real spice jars, a reused notebook, and a simple plated dish for all hero inserts. Shoot the argument coverage with a small camera package and available practicals augmented by a few controlled LEDs bounced through warm diffusion. Let performance and editing carry the comedy rather than expensive production design. For the reveal, a single clean notebook insert and a close-up on Lata’s face will do the heavy lifting.

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

