

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE ROOFTOP VOTE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A society rooftop meeting turns into a comic power struggle when two self-important office-bearers try to impress a calm new resident—only to discover she is an election auditor who has been quietly collecting evidence against their fake accounts. Their rivalry collapses the moment their own words become the proof that exposes them.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Warm sunset realism with a clean comedic edge: the rooftop should feel ordinary, public, and slightly chaotic, so the absurdity of the men's ego plays against a believable society setting. • Performance-driven comedy: the humor comes from timing, interruptions, posture shifts, and the contrast between Rakesh's theatrical authority, Mohan's defensive logic, and Pooja's stillness. • Escalation through stillness: each new revelation should be played with increasing calm from Pooja and increasing self-importance from the men, making the final reveal land harder. • Visual irony: the megaphone and calculator should feel like symbols of inflated power, while the clipboard and ledger quietly hold the real authority. • Pacing should be brisk and conversational, with short beats, clean reversals, and no visual clutter that distracts from the dialogue-based comedy. • End on a frozen comic image: stunned faces under rooftop lights, with the city continuing normally behind them, emphasizing how small their drama really is.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Rakesh age: 52 look: White shirt, reading glasses, authoritative posture, always slightly over-composed as if he is addressing a crowd larger than the rooftop. dramatic_arc: Begins as the self-appointed commander of the meeting, grows more impressed with himself as Pooja appears to listen, then collapses into panic when he realizes his own statements have become evidence. • character: Mohan age: 49 look: Folded sleeves, calculator in hand, stubborn seated posture, practical but performative, with a habit of tapping or handling the calculator like a badge of expertise. dramatic_arc: Starts as the counter-voice to Rakesh, competing to appear more rational and useful, then shifts from smug logic to defensive damage control when the audit is revealed. • character: Pooja age: 35 look: Jeans, dupatta, clipboard, calm expression, minimal movement, observant eyes, composed and quietly authoritative. dramatic_arc: Appears to be a new resident taking notes, allowing the men to expose themselves through ego, then reveals herself as the election auditor and takes complete control of the room.
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: The rooftop society meeting area should be practical and lived-in: scattered plastic chairs with slight misalignment, a visible water tank in the background, and a skyline of nearby apartments with a few lit windows to establish evening neighborhood life. The floor should feel slightly rough and utilitarian, with subtle dust and rooftop wear. The space needs enough depth for the characters to stand, sit, lean in, and create triangular blocking without feeling cramped. The megaphone, calculator, clipboard, and ledger should be visually readable from a distance. Warm sunset light should rake across the set, creating long shadows from the water tank and chairs. The environment should feel public, slightly echoey, and open to the city, reinforcing the social stakes of a small committee meeting becoming a public humiliation.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character: Rakesh costume: White shirt with a neat but slightly overconfident presentation, reading glasses worn as a status marker rather than necessity. continuity_notes: Shirt should remain clean and crisp until the final reveal; any looseness or stress should come only through body language, not wardrobe change. • character: Mohan costume: Folded sleeves, practical everyday attire, calculator always in hand or within immediate reach. continuity_notes: Sleeves should stay folded consistently to support his stubborn, ready-to-argue posture. Calculator must remain visible in all key beats. • character: Pooja costume: Jeans and dupatta, simple and understated, with a clipboard as her functional accessory. continuity_notes: Her look should stay calm and unchanged throughout, reinforcing that she never needs to perform authority; she already has it.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Megaphone visual_details: Handheld, slightly oversized in Rakesh's grip, used like a symbol of command rather than actual amplification. • prop: Calculator visual_details: Held by Mohan as a prop of logic and authority; should be easy to tap dramatically. • prop: Clipboard visual_details: Pooja's calm, professional tool for taking notes; should read clearly as the object that quietly controls the scene. • prop: Society Ledger visual_details: A physical register/book that Pooja opens during the reveal; must feel official, worn, and substantial. • prop: Plastic Chairs visual_details: Scattered, slightly mismatched rooftop chairs that support the casual society-meeting setting. • prop: Water Tanks visual_details: Background rooftop utility element with a long shadow, grounding the location in everyday apartment life.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup natural and realistic, with a slight evening sheen from warm rooftop conditions. Rakesh and Mohan can have a subtle sweat sheen as the conversation intensifies, especially on forehead and upper lip, to support the pressure of the reveal. Pooja should remain fresh and composed, with minimal shine to contrast the men's growing discomfort. No heavy SFX required; the only distress effect is behavioral—tightened jaws, widened eyes, and a gradual loss of composure. Lighting should react naturally on glasses, calculator surfaces, and the ledger pages.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Rakesh | **super_objective:** To be recognized as the most important and authoritative person in the society. | **subtext:** If I sound decisive enough, I can control the room and impress the new resident.
- **character:** Mohan | **super_objective:** To prove that his practical logic and financial sense make him indispensable. | **subtext:** If I keep correcting him with numbers, I will look smarter and more trustworthy.
- **character:** Pooja | **super_objective:** To quietly gather the truth and expose the fraud without losing composure. | **subtext:** Let them talk; the more they perform, the more evidence I collect.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

RAKESH

((overconfident))

Meeting start. Aur please, koi beech mein interrupt nahi karega.

MOHAN

((without looking up))

Main interrupt nahi karta, main correct karta hoon.

RAKESH

((defensive))

Cream zyada classy lagta hai.

MOHAN

((practical))

Off-white zyada practical. Cream mein stains dikhenge.

RAKESH

((firm))

6 se 7. Discipline chahiye.



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

Use a dialogue-first comedy grammar with clean coverage, medium close-ups, and reaction-driven framing. Start with a balanced wide that establishes the rooftop triangle, then move into alternating singles and over-the-shoulders as the men compete. Favor slightly longer lenses for facial compression during the reveal so their ego feels boxed in. Camera movement should be minimal and deliberate: subtle push-ins on key reversals, no flashy motion, and a final hold on the stunned faces to let the punchline breathe.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Warm sunset key with soft directional light across the rooftop, creating flattering but slightly ironic golden tones for the opening power play.

Tier 2: As the conversation escalates, let the ambient sky fill cool slightly while practical rooftop and skyline lights begin to appear, adding contrast between public daylight authority and hidden evening truth.

Tier 3: At the reveal and final beat, deepen shadows subtly, keep Pooja cleanly readable, and allow the men to fall into more contrast-heavy framing so their discomfort becomes visually obvious.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Use a light rooftop ambience with distant city traffic, faint neighborhood sounds, and occasional wind passing across the open terrace. Foley should emphasize the megaphone grip, calculator taps, clipboard flips, and the soft scrape of plastic chairs. The rooftop should have a mild airy acoustic profile with slight echo on dialogue, but keep every line intelligible. In the final beat, let the ambient city tone continue while the room drops into silence around the stunned pause.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm sunset palette with honeyed oranges, soft ambers, and muted rooftop neutrals. Keep skin tones natural and slightly sun-kissed in the opening, then allow the image to cool subtly as the audit reveal lands. The final frames should preserve the golden hour mood while increasing contrast enough to make the men's frozen expressions pop. Avoid overly saturated comedy colors; the humor should feel grounded and observational.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Scout rooftop, mark blocking, and confirm chair, tank, and skyline sightlines	Direction, Camera, Art
09:30 - 11:00	Set dressing, prop placement, and wardrobe continuity check	Art, Wardrobe, Props
11:00 - 12:30	Camera and sound rig prep, lens tests, and dialogue rehearsal	Camera, Sound
12:30 - 14:00	Lighting pre-rig and sunset simulation planning	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
14:00 - 15:30	Blocking with actors and timing of interruptions, reveals, and final freeze	Direction, Cast, Camera
15:30 - 17:30	Shoot master wide, dialogue coverage, and reveal sequence	Camera, Sound, Direction
17:30 - 18:30	Pickup reactions, ledger inserts, and final stunned faces under rooftop lights	Camera, Art, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot on a real rooftop society terrace to avoid heavy set construction. Use existing plastic chairs, water tanks, and skyline as production design. Keep the scene to one location and three actors, with the ledger, clipboard, megaphone, and calculator as the only hero props. Use natural sunset light as much as possible and supplement with a few practicals or soft LED fill. Limit camera setups to a master, two singles, and a reveal close-up to save time. Record clean production sound carefully, since the comedy depends on dialogue timing. Let performance and blocking carry the humor instead of expensive visual gags.

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

