

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE UMBRELLA TEST

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Monsoon ki ek cramped car mein Dev apni fake-romantic sacrifice se Ira ko impress karne ki koshish karta hai, lekin Rahul ki smug interruptions aur Ira ki deadpan cross-examination dono ki jhoothi image ko dismantle kar deti hai. Jab truth finally nikalta hai, toh pyaar jeet-ta nahi, bas survive karta hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: - Pure comedy tone with deadpan realism: rain, fog, and cramped car space ko absurdly serious courtroom energy mein play karna hai. - Performance style should be heightened but grounded; Dev over-romantic, Rahul casually annoying, Ira razor-sharp and emotionally unreadable. - Pacing fast, with punchlines landing on pauses and reactions; silence ko bhi joke ki tarah use karna hai. - Visual contrast: soft dashboard glow against harsh monsoon darkness outside, making the car feel like a tiny pressure cooker. - Thematic layer: performative love vs honest vulnerability; comedy ke through truth ka reveal. - Blocking should keep the triangle dynamic visible, with Ira gradually taking spatial control of the car.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Dev age: 30 look: Soaked shirt, cheap cologne, emotionally overinvested face, slightly disheveled romantic energy. dramatic_arc: Shuru mein self-styled hero banne ki koshish karta hai, phir cross-examination mein expose hota hai, aur end mein reluctantly honest ho jaata hai. • character: Rahul age: 32 look: Old umbrella, takeaway coffee, smug expression, casual practical vibe with annoying confidence. dramatic_arc: Har moment ko punchline mein convert karta hai, Dev ko undermine karta hai, aur finally apni own defensive dishonesty accept kar leta hai. • character: Ira age: 29 look: Office wear, completely dry, unimpressed deadpan face, judge-like composure. dramatic_arc: Initially detached observer, then courtroom-style interrogator, and finally the only one with clarity and control, taking the driver's seat literally and emotionally.
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:

Small car interior under a flyover at night, with tight spatial compression as the core design principle. Roof and windows must visibly carry rain impact: fogged glass, water streaks, and a slightly vibrating cabin feel. Dashboard emits a soft yellowish glow that becomes the primary motivated light source. Seats should feel cramped and slightly worn, with enough practical space for a handoff of umbrella, coffee, and keys. Exterior flyover presence can be suggested through shadowed concrete texture, passing vehicle light spill, and rain noise rather than full build. The car should feel like a temporary courtroom, with the dashboard area acting as the judge's bench when Ira takes control.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Dev:** Soaked shirt with visible clinging fabric and collar drip continuity. Slightly wrinkled, romantic-but-failing presentation. Cheap cologne is a character note, not a costume item, but should be implied through performance and reaction.
- **Rahul:** Casual everyday clothes suitable for a night drive, with an old umbrella and takeaway coffee as his signature visual accessories. Wardrobe should support his smug, practical, slightly unbothered energy.
- **Ira:** Office wear that remains dry and crisp throughout. Clean lines, controlled silhouette, and no visible distress. Her wardrobe should reinforce authority and composure.

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

- **prop:** Umbrella | **details:** Dev's umbrella, offered dramatically like a sacrifice; later used as evidence by Ira. Must read clearly as the central object of the scene.
- **prop:** Old umbrella | **details:** Rahul's umbrella, visibly older and less polished than Dev's. Should support his 'Vintage' line.
- **prop:** Takeaway coffee | **details:** Rahul's coffee cup with lid, used in the banter and later handed back to him by Ira.
- **prop:** Car keys | **details:** Handed to Ira at the end; must be easy to see and physically pass between actors.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Dev: damp hairline, rain-sweat mix on face, slightly flushed from embarrassment, shirt clinging to body. Rahul: minimal makeup, slight under-eye fatigue, coffee-driven late-night look. Ira: clean, controlled makeup with matte finish; no rain distress, reinforcing her dry and unimpressed status. All three should react to dashboard light with warm highlights and soft shadowing. No heavy SFX required; realism comes from wet hair, moisture on skin, and fabric dampness.



ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Dev | **super_objective:** Ira ko prove karna ki woh caring aur worthy partner hai. | **subtext:** Main hero hoon, please meri performance ko truth samajh lo.
- **character:** Rahul | **super_objective:** Situation ko control mein rakhte hue Dev ko expose karna aur apni practical superiority dikhana. | **subtext:** Main joke hoon, lekin main hi smartest bhi hoon.
- **character:** Ira | **super_objective:** Dono ladkon ki dishonesty ko test karke sach nikalna aur apni emotional safety protect karna. | **subtext:** Mujhe romance nahi, reliability chahiye.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

DEV*((romantic, dramatic))*

Ira... yeh umbrella tumhare liye.

RAHUL

Turant de de. Hero banne ka mood hai uska.

IRA

Tum log hamesha itna loud pyar karte ho kya?

DEV

No, I mean... true love mein selflessness hoti hai.

RAHUL

Haan. Aur true love mein shirt bhi dry hoti hai.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Close, intimate framing with 35mm and 50mm equivalents to preserve cramped car geometry and facial reactions. Use over-the-shoulder setups and tight two-shots to keep the triangle tension readable. Camera movement should be minimal and reactive: subtle handheld or locked-off compositions with occasional micro-push-ins on punchlines and reveals. The philosophy is to let performance and pauses drive comedy, while the camera quietly traps the characters inside the car like a pressure cooker.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Exterior monsoon darkness with rain reflections and occasional passing vehicle spill to establish the flyover night world. Tier 2: Dashboard practical as the main motivated source, soft yellowish and flattering enough to reveal expressions while keeping the cabin intimate. Tier 3: Controlled accent fill from hidden low-intensity sources to separate faces from the dark interior and maintain visibility during cross-examination beats. As Ira takes control, slightly cleaner and more even fill can subtly shift power toward her without breaking realism.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Heavy rain on roof as the dominant rhythmic bed, with distinct drumming texture to support comedic timing. Foggy car interior tone should feel enclosed, with muffled outside traffic under the flyover. Foley priorities: umbrella fabric movement, coffee cup lid clicks, seat shifts, key jingle, and small clothing rustles in the cramped space. Dialogue must remain crisp and dry against the wet soundscape. The acoustic profile should feel tight, close-mic'd, and slightly claustrophobic.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm yellow dashboard practicals against cool blue-gray monsoon exterior. Keep skin tones natural but slightly desaturated to preserve the rainy-night realism. Use soft contrast with gentle highlights on wet fabric and glass. Overall palette should favor muted greens, grays, and amber, with the car interior feeling like a small island of warmth inside a cold storm.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Car interior prep, rain simulation, and dashboard practical test	Art, Grip, Camera, G&E;
09:30 - 11:00	Block triangle seating positions and umbrella/coffee/key handoffs	Director, Camera, Cast
11:00 - 13:00	Shoot opening banter and Dev's umbrella offer	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:00 - 16:00	Shoot courtroom cross-examination beats and reveal lines	Camera, Sound, Cast
16:00 - 17:30	Shoot climax confession, umbrella transfer, coffee lid close, keys handoff	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use a parked car build or real car with removable doors for camera access. Simulate rain with controlled hose or rain bars only on exterior surfaces, keeping interior dry except for Dev's wardrobe continuity. One dashboard practical can carry most of the scene; add cheap hidden LED fill for eye light. Shoot in a covered location or under an actual flyover for ambient authenticity. Keep props minimal and story-critical only: umbrella, coffee, keys. Prioritize performance rehearsal over coverage; the comedy lives in timing and reaction shots, so fewer setups will save time and money.

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

