

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE EXTRA CHAIR

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek chhote dining room mein family dinner ka simple sa scene Arjun ke liye ek comic trial ban jaata hai, jahan uski wife Nisha aur mother-in-law Meera har innocent gesture ko test mein badal deti hain. Par jab woh ek bhi kaam sahi nahi karta, phir bhi uski sabse badi jeet hoti hai: poori raat bina complaint kiye patience se survive karna.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Pure comedy with a warm, domestic pressure-cooker tone: intimate, playful, and slightly absurd. • Visual humor should come from spatial constraints—too-small table, extra chair, elbow collisions, and awkward blocking. • Performance style should stay grounded and sharp; jokes land through timing, pauses, and deadpan reactions rather than broad slapstick. • The room should feel like a tiny courtroom of family expectations, but always with affectionate undertones. • Pacing should escalate from small inconveniences to a reveal-driven payoff, ending on a warm, relieved laugh. • Keep the emotional core light: the comedy is about patience, not humiliation.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Arjun age: 32 look: Office formals, slightly tense posture, reusable water bottle always in hand like a shield; clean but increasingly disheveled by the dinner chaos. dramatic_arc: Starts as a polite, over-cautious husband trying to satisfy both women, becomes increasingly flustered by every small task, and ends as a relieved man who realizes he has passed the real test: patience. • character: Meera age: 58 look: Bright sari, regal posture, reading glasses perched on the nose, composed and observant with a quietly amused expression. dramatic_arc: Begins as the authoritative mother-in-law setting the rules of the room, enjoys testing Arjun, then reveals that her judgment is less about chores and more about emotional steadiness. • character: Nisha age: 30 look: Comfy home wear, sharp eyes, alert body language, a subtle smug smile that suggests she is always one step ahead. dramatic_arc: Starts as the wife directing Arjun with precise household expectations, competes playfully with Meera, and ends by affirming Arjun's value through teasing approval.
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 small dining room with a deliberately cramped layout to generate physical comedy. The dining table should feel slightly too small for three adults plus serving items, with limited elbow space and awkward chair clearance. Use a warm ceiling bulb as the main practical source, and place a decorative lamp near the sideboard that visibly flickers to add texture and comic tension. The sideboard should hold minimal domestic clutter, enough to suggest a lived-in family home without distracting from the action. The extra chair must be clearly visible in the corner at the start and remain a recurring visual gag. Surfaces should have subtle wear: polished wood with fingerprints, a slightly reflective table top, and soft fabric textures in the sari and home wear contrasting with the hard edges of chairs and bowls. Spatial layers should allow for chair movement, bowl handling, and accidental collisions without breaking the intimate frame.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Arjun:** Office formals throughout: neat shirt and trousers that read as workwear entering home space. The look should become subtly more stressed through posture and handling rather than costume changes. His reusable water bottle is part of the visual identity.
- **Meera:** Bright sari with a composed, authoritative presence. Reading glasses stay on the nose for most of the scene, reinforcing her role as the evaluator. Costume should remain elegant and undisturbed, reflecting control.
- **Nisha:** Comfy home wear that feels relaxed but intentional. The wardrobe should support her sharp, observant energy and allow easy movement around the table. Continuity should keep her looking casually in command.

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

- **prop:** Extra chair | **details:** A clearly distinct dining chair placed in the corner at the start, then moved repeatedly. It should visually read as the object of the scene's comic tension.
- **prop:** Reusable water bottle | **details:** Held by Arjun like a shield. It should be practical-looking and recognizable as a personal bottle, not a generic prop.
- **prop:** Serving bowl | **details:** A central dinner bowl that can be nudged, tapped, and handled during the scene. It should feel slightly precarious on the small table.
- **prop:** Napkin | **details:** A cloth or paper napkin that Arjun mistakenly folds instead of using to wipe water. It should be visible and easy to manipulate on camera.
- **prop:** Phone | **details:** A vibrating mobile phone that Arjun tries to silence, triggering the gag where he silences himself instead. It must be readable in hand.
- **prop:** Reading glasses | **details:** Meera's glasses resting on her nose, reinforcing her evaluative, no-nonsense presence.
- **prop:** Folded paper lists | **details:** Two identical folded papers pulled from Meera's sari pallu and Nisha's pocket, used for the reveal of the chores list.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and performance-led. Arjun should begin clean and composed, then show mild stress through slight forehead sheen, subtle under-eye fatigue, and a faintly flushed face as the dinner escalates. Meera should remain polished with minimal shine, emphasizing control and authority. Nisha should look fresh and alert, with a crisp, expressive face that reads her smug amusement clearly. No heavy SFX is required; only practical distress details like a touch of sweat on Arjun, slight hair disruption from movement, and realistic skin reactions to warm indoor lighting.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Arjun:** {'super_objective': 'To be accepted as a competent, respectful husband and son-in-law without causing conflict.', 'subtext': 'I need to get every small thing right, but I'm already losing control. Please don't notice how hard I'm trying.'}
- **Meera:** {'super_objective': 'To test whether Arjun can handle family expectations with patience and dignity.', 'subtext': 'I'm not looking for perfection; I'm looking for composure. Show me you can stay calm under pressure.'}
- **Nisha:** {'super_objective': 'To see whether Arjun can function as a dependable husband in front of family without overperforming.', 'subtext': 'I know exactly how this is going to go, and I'm enjoying watching you try. Don't disappoint me by making it easy.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

NISHA

Arjun, chair idhar le aao. Mummy ko side mein thoda space chahiye.

MEERA

Yeh chair hai ya protest?

MEERA

Arjun, paani do.

NISHA

Arjun, napkin.

MEERA

Chalo, sach bol deti hoon.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, observational framing with a comedic bias toward spatial discomfort. Favor medium shots and close-ups that trap characters in the small room, with occasional wider frames to reveal the table's cramped geometry and the extra chair gag. Lens choice should feel natural and slightly compressed to emphasize proximity and awkward overlaps. Camera movement should be minimal but precise: gentle push-ins for punchlines, small reframes to catch reactions, and controlled static setups that let performance timing drive the humor. The visual philosophy is to let the room itself become a comic machine.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

1) Base layer: warm ceiling bulb as the dominant practical, creating a cozy but slightly theatrical family-dinner atmosphere.
2) Accent layer: flickering decorative lamp near the sideboard to add visual instability, texture, and a subtle comic unease.
3) Reaction layer: soft, controlled fill to preserve facial readability on all three actors while keeping shadows in the cramped room for depth and contrast. As the scene progresses, maintain warmth but allow the flicker and practicals to shape the mood, ending in a softer, more settled feel when the tension resolves.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Prioritize intimate room tone: faint hum of the bulb, subtle flicker buzz from the decorative lamp, light cutlery clinks, bowl taps, chair scrapes, and the soft rustle of clothing in a tight space. Foley should emphasize small domestic sounds becoming comedic events—chair movement, water pour mishap, napkin handling, phone vibration, and the tiny pause before each punchline. The acoustic profile should feel enclosed, with close-mic dialogue and a natural dining-room reverb that keeps the scene grounded.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm, domestic LUT with amber highlights and soft brown midtones. Keep skin tones natural and flattering, while preserving a slight contrast between the cozy bulb warmth and the cooler flicker from the decorative lamp. The palette should lean toward warm creams, wood tones, sari brightness, and muted home neutrals. Avoid over-saturation; the comedy should feel lived-in, not stylized to the point of distraction.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Art department set dressing, table reset, chair placement, prop continuity check	Art, Props
09:00 - 10:00	Lighting rig and practicals test, lamp flicker calibration, camera blocking rehearsal	Camera, G&E,, Director
10:00 - 11:30	Shoot dialogue setup with chair movement, water bottle, napkin, and phone beats	Camera, Sound, Cast
11:30 - 12:30	Shoot list reveal insert, folded paper close-ups, reaction coverage	Camera, Art, Cast
12:30 - 13:30	Shoot ending beats, extra chair pull-in, final laugh, cleanup coverage	Camera, Cast, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real dining room with minimal redressing instead of building a set. Keep the extra chair, table, lamp, and sideboard as the only major art elements. Shoot mostly with available practicals plus a few soft fill sources to preserve the warm look. Limit company moves by designing all action around one table axis. Use performance timing and reaction shots to sell the comedy rather than expensive inserts or coverage-heavy setups. Props should be multipurpose and reusable, and the same room can be dressed slightly differently for continuity without changing geography.

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

