

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

LAST STOP, LADIES

1 Male + 2 Female (M + F + F) | Genre: Slice of Life/Family | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Late at night in a railway waiting room, a son trying to perform competence is exposed by his mother and sister when a simple travel plan goes wrong. As the delayed train finally arrives, the family's teasing turns into a quiet, practical reminder that adulthood is shared, not solo.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: - Keep the tone intimate, observational, and lightly comic, with emotional truth underneath the banter. - Treat the waiting room as a pressure cooker: a public space that feels private because the family's history is doing the real talking. - Let the humor come from timing, pauses, and glances rather than broad performance. - Build tension through small reveals: ticket, platform number, snacks, and Sameer's collapsing confidence. - Pace should be restrained at first, then tighten as the wrong-platform truth lands, and finally release into motion when the train announcement arrives. - Visual language should emphasize fluorescent fatigue, vending-machine blue, and the soft warmth of family solidarity at the end.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Sameer age: 28 look: Wrinkled shirt, backpack, sleepy-eyed, visibly trying to look responsible while carrying nervous energy. dramatic_arc: Begins as a man performing control and competence, gets exposed through small mistakes, then ends humbled but relieved, accepting that adulthood is not about pretending to manage everything alone. • character: Asha age: 52 look: Cotton dupatta, tired feet, practical presence, firm but loving maternal energy, seated with plastic bags and thermos. dramatic_arc: Starts as a calm observer and gentle interrogator, becomes the quiet authority who reveals the truth, and ends as the emotional anchor who reframes failure as shared responsibility. • character: Pooja age: 24 look: Jeans, sneakers, earbuds resting at the neck, phone always in hand, expressive face with amused irritation. dramatic_arc: Begins as the skeptical sibling who enjoys exposing Sameer's bluff, escalates the teasing with sharp wit, and ends as a practical ally who helps move the family forward.
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 late-night railway waiting room with peeling paint, harsh tube lights, a slowly rotating ceiling fan, and a vending machine casting a cool blue glow near the bench. The space should feel worn, slightly under-maintained, and acoustically hollow, with a public-in-private intimacy created by the bench placement and the family clustering together. Include visible wall texture, chipped corners, scuffed floor, and a doorway that leads toward the platform exit. The set should allow clear sightlines for the bench conversation, the ticket reveal, and the final movement toward the exit. Keep practical signage and announcement sources minimal but believable, with the loudspeaker feel coming from offscreen.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character: Sameer costume: Wrinkled shirt, backpack, travel-ready but slightly disheveled. The shirt should read as worn through a long day and late-night delay. continuity_notes: Backpack must remain with him through the scene. Shirt should stay visibly creased to support the tired, stressed state. • character: Asha costume: Cotton dupatta with practical, everyday clothing suitable for travel. She carries plastic bags and a thermos, which should integrate naturally with her look. continuity_notes: Dupatta must be accessible for the ticket reveal. Thermos and bags remain with her until she hands the bags to Sameer near the end. • character: Pooja costume: Jeans and sneakers, casual late-night travel wear. Earbuds rest around her neck rather than in her ears. continuity_notes: Phone stays in hand or easily reachable for the announcement cross-check. Earbuds should remain visible at the neck throughout.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Railway ticket visual_details: Physical paper ticket held by Asha, later revealed as a second set from her dupatta. Must clearly support the wrong-platform reveal. • prop: Thermos visual_details: Held by Asha at the start, later identified as hers. Should feel used, practical, and travel-worn. • prop: Plastic bags visual_details: Asha's bags placed beside her on the bench, later handed to Sameer. They should look like ordinary travel bags, not stylized. • prop: Backpack visual_details: Sameer's backpack, functional and slightly overstuffed, used as part of his attempt to appear prepared. • prop: Phone visual_details: Pooja's phone used to cross-check the announcement and platform information. • prop: Earbuds visual_details: Pooja's earbuds hanging at the neck, signaling her casual, alert presence.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup naturalistic and travel-worn. Sameer should have slight under-eye fatigue, mild forehead sheen, and a stressed, slightly flushed look as the truth is exposed. Asha should read as tired but composed, with subtle facial texture and no glam polish. Pooja should look fresh but late-night tired, with minimal shine and expressive eyes. Add light sweat only as needed under harsh tube lights, especially on Sameer during the reveal and rush. No heavy SFX required; the realism comes from fatigue, lighting reaction, and small distress details like dampness at the hairline or a slightly crumpled appearance.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Sameer | **super_objective:** To be seen as capable and responsible by his mother and sister. | **subtext:** If I look confident enough, maybe they won't notice I'm improvising everything.
- **character:** Asha | **super_objective:** To keep the family safe, on time, and emotionally honest. | **subtext:** I already know the truth; I'm waiting for you to admit it so we can move on.
- **character:** Pooja | **super_objective:** To puncture Sameer's performance and keep the family grounded in reality. | **subtext:** I'm teasing because I care, and because someone has to say what everyone is thinking.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

ASHA

((*thermos rakhte hue*))
Train kitni late hai?

POOJA

"Thodi" matlab kitni, bhai?

SAMEER

((*quick*))
Bas enough ki hum sab zinda hain.

ASHA

Platform number yaad hai?

SAMEER

Haan. Obviously.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, character-first framing with 35mm and 50mm lenses for most dialogue, reserving a slightly longer lens for the reveal and the final emotional beat. Favor static or gently drifting camera movement, allowing pauses and glances to land naturally. Start with a balanced three-shot and medium singles, then tighten into close-ups as the interrogation escalates. The camera should feel patient, observant, and never flashy, with movement only when the family shifts from seated tension to coordinated action.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Harsh overhead tube light as the base, creating a tired institutional waiting-room feel with flat top light and visible shadows under eyes. Tier 2: Vending machine blue as a cool accent near the bench, adding contrast and a lonely nocturnal glow. Tier 3: During the wrong-platform reveal and final rush, slightly deepen contrast and let practical light carve faces more sharply, while keeping the room believable and unromantic. Maintain a consistent late-night palette of yellow-white overheads, blue practicals, and muted skin tones.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the room with a soft ceiling fan hum, distant platform announcements, fluorescent electrical buzz, and occasional footstep echoes. The waiting room should have a hollow acoustic profile with small cloth and plastic foley details: thermos set-down, bag rustle, ticket paper flick, phone taps, and sneaker movement toward the exit. Announcements should feel intermittent and partially unintelligible, reinforcing uncertainty. Keep dialogue clean and intimate, with ambient noise never overpowering the family exchange.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a restrained, naturalistic LUT with slightly desaturated mids and cool highlights. Let the tube lights lean yellow-green, while the vending machine glow reads distinctly blue. Skin tones should remain realistic but slightly tired, with gentle contrast to preserve facial expressions. The final movement toward the exit can carry a marginally warmer emotional feel without breaking the late-night realism.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, wall distress touch-ups, prop placement, and practical light tests	Art, G&E;, Props
09:30 - 10:30	Camera blocking on bench and exit path	Director, Camera, Cast
10:30 - 11:30	Shoot opening bench conversation and platform banter	Camera, Sound, Cast
11:30 - 12:30	Shoot ticket reveal, wrong-platform confrontation, and close-ups	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:30 - 13:15	Shoot train announcement reaction and coordinated exit	Camera, Sound, Cast, Art
13:15 - 13:45	Pickups, insert shots of ticket, thermos, phone, and bags	Camera, Props, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Use one real waiting-room-like location dressed minimally with peeling paint, a bench, and practical signage. Rely on existing tube lights and one vending-machine-style practical to avoid heavy rigging. Keep the cast small and blocking simple so the scene can be shot efficiently in coverage and then cut tightly in edit. Use real paper tickets and ordinary travel props instead of custom builds. Record clean room tone and announcements separately if needed, then layer in post. Let performance and timing carry the scene rather than expensive production design.

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

