

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

MOTHER KNOWS THE PASSWORD

1 Male + 2 Female (M + F + F) | Genre: Sci-Fi/High-Concept | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek overconfident tech-genius beta apne ghar ke kitchen-lab mein family behavior predict karne wala AI prototype launch karta hai, lekin device usi ghar ki hidden memories ko expose karte hue sabse pehle uski maa ke sach se unlock hota hai. Jo experiment privacy breach banne aaya tha, woh family archive aur emotional intelligence ka shocking proof ban jaata hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: ordinary kitchen ko futuristic unease ke saath shoot karna—home warmth aur cold machine logic ka contrast. • Thematic depth: memory, motherhood, privacy, and the false assumption that tech intelligence is separate from emotional intelligence. • Pacing: single-location pressure cooker rhythm; each question should tighten the room emotionally and visually. • Performance style: restrained, naturalistic reactions with one or two silence-heavy beats carrying the biggest reveals. • Production design philosophy: everyday domestic objects—chai cups, cables, sticky notes, laptop glow—ko sci-fi texture dena without losing realism.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Ritvik age: 26 look: Hoodie, glasses, restless energy, slightly messy tech-creator vibe. dramatic_arc: Starts as an overconfident inventor who believes he controls the system, then gets progressively humbled as he realizes the prototype was trained on his mother's unseen emotional labor and memory archive. • character: Mira age: 50 look: Simple sari, calm presence, practical domestic authority, unshowy but deeply observant. dramatic_arc: Initially appears as the patient mother making chai, then reveals herself as the true keeper of the family archive and the emotional intelligence behind the entire system's training data. • character: Aarti age: 31 look: Smart office wear, tired but precise face, audit-ready posture, controlled professionalism. dramatic_arc: Begins as a skeptical ethics researcher ready to flag a breach, but becomes morally conflicted when she realizes the system is built from intimate family memory rather than generic data.
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 apartment kitchen converted into a makeshift home lab. The space should feel lived-in first, technical second: worn countertop edges, tea cups, a phone, laptop, charging cables, sticky notes, and a tabletop AI device with a blue pulse. Keep the room spatially layered—foreground clutter of domestic life, midground table as the lab core, background cabinets and kitchen surfaces as the home anchor. Use practical cable runs, a visible laptop, and a smart speaker unit to create the sense that the lab has grown organically out of the kitchen rather than being built separately. Textures should include matte metal, ceramic cups, soft fabric from clothing, and slightly reflective device surfaces catching the blue light.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character: Ritvik costume: Hoodie and glasses, casual home-tech look. continuity_notes: Keep hoodie consistent throughout; slightly rumpled as the tension escalates. Glasses remain on to reinforce his analytical self-image. • character: Mira costume: Simple sari, understated and practical. continuity_notes: Sari should feel everyday and domestic, not ceremonial. She remains composed while pouring and serving chai, reinforcing her grounded authority. • character: Aarti costume: Smart office wear, audit-appropriate and precise. continuity_notes: Maintain a clean, professional silhouette. Her wardrobe should contrast with the kitchen setting and visually mark her as an outsider entering the family space.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Tabletop AI device details: Small prototype unit with a blue pulse/blink, central to the scene and visually tied to the truth-verification mode. • prop: Laptop details: Screen freezes during lockout; later shows terminal logs and source folder reference. • prop: Phone details: Screen goes black during lockout, then lights up blue again after unlock. • prop: Smart speaker details: Voice-assistant style unit whose light turns red during lockout and returns to blue after verification. • prop: Cables details: Scattered charging and data cables that make the kitchen feel like a temporary lab. • prop: Sticky notes details: Visible on the table or nearby surfaces to reinforce the improvised research environment. • prop: Tea cups / chai details: Mira pours and serves chai; the cups are a recurring domestic anchor against the machine tension. • prop: Notepad details: Aarti's audit notebook, used as a visual sign of scrutiny and documentation.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup naturalistic and character-driven. Ritvik should have slight under-eye fatigue and a mild sheen as the scene intensifies. Mira should remain mostly fresh and composed, with only subtle kitchen warmth and soft facial realism. Aarti should look professionally tired, with controlled makeup and a precise, alert face. As tension rises, add realistic sweat sheen on Ritvik and a faint stress flush on Aarti. Lighting reactions should be considered: blue laptop/device glow can cool skin tones, while the red smart-speaker moment should briefly make faces look harsher and more exposed.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Ritvik | **super_objective:** To prove he is the smartest person in the room and that his prototype is a breakthrough. | **subtext:** He is desperate for validation and terrified of being seen as ordinary, especially by his mother.
- **character:** Mira | **super_objective:** To protect the truth of the family and quietly assert her unseen intelligence. | **subtext:** She already knows more than she says; her calmness is power, not passivity.
- **character:** Aarti | **super_objective:** To determine whether the prototype is ethically safe and expose any privacy breach. | **subtext:** She is professionally guarded, but the family archive revelation forces her to confront the emotional cost of data.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

MIRA

Chai ke baad present karna. Pehle battery, phir badi baatein.

AARTI

((flat))

Tumne mujhe audit ke liye bulaya tha, launch party ke liye nahi.

DEVICE (V.O.)

Truth verification mode activated.

DEVICE (V.O.)

Three users detected. Access locked until truth verification is complete.

MIRA

Achha. Ab machine bhi ghar jamai ban gayi.



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

Use intimate, observational framing with a strong preference for close-ups, over-the-shoulders, and tight two-shots that trap characters in the kitchen-lab space. Lenses should feel natural and human, with wider coverage only to establish the cramped domestic environment. Camera movement philosophy: minimal but purposeful—slow push-ins during revelations, locked-off tension during questions, and subtle reframing to emphasize who holds power in each beat. The device, laptop, and faces should share frame whenever possible so the audience feels the machine is interrogating the family in real time.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Cool laptop glow and blue device pulse establish the baseline sci-fi domestic mood, with practical kitchen spill kept low and soft. Tier 2: During lockout and questioning, deepen contrast, isolate faces with harder side light, and let the red smart-speaker indicator briefly contaminate the room. Tier 3: At the reveal and unlock, restore the blue tone but soften it slightly so the room feels emotionally exposed rather than technologically threatening. Keep shadows in the corners of the kitchen to preserve the sense of a private family space being audited.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the scene around a quiet room tone, soft appliance hum, laptop fan, device beeps, and the subtle clink of chai cups. The AI voice should be clean, slightly synthetic, and centered so it feels authoritative. Use small foley details—keyboard taps, cable movement, tea cup set-downs, chair shifts—to amplify tension. When the lockout hits, let the silence after the voice line feel unnaturally heavy. The final hum should be soft, approving, and almost domestic.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Cool, desaturated base with blue highlights from the laptop and device. Keep skin tones slightly neutral-cold to support the sci-fi edge, then allow warm chai and sari tones to puncture the frame as emotional anchors. The red smart-speaker moment should be the only strong warning color. Overall LUT style should feel clean, modern, and restrained, with contrast rising during the truth-test and easing slightly at the end.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing and cable layout	Art, Props
09:30 - 10:30	Lighting rig and practical glow tests	Camera, Gaffer
10:30 - 11:15	Wardrobe, makeup, and continuity check	Wardrobe, Makeup
11:15 - 12:30	Rehearse blocking and device interaction beats	Director, Cast, Camera
12:30 - 14:30	Shoot dialogue and lockout sequence	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:30 - 16:00	Shoot reveal, unlock, and final chai beat	Camera, Cast, Art

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real kitchen with practical lamps and laptop/device LEDs instead of building a full sci-fi set. Keep the AI voice as a simple recorded performance in post. Dress the room with existing household items—tea cups, sticky notes, cables, phone, notepad—to avoid expensive props. Shoot most coverage with one or two lenses and rely on performance plus sound design for tension. Let the blue and red practicals do the heavy lifting so you can keep the lighting package small.

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

