

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE MEMORY TAPE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A memory-replay experiment in a sterile research lab spirals into a devastating truth: Aman is not a volunteer, but a reconstructed presence built from two women's incomplete memories of his death. As the red recording light exposes guilt, denial, and a hidden accident, the lab becomes a chamber of confession.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: cold, clinical sci-fi realism with thriller tension; glass, metal, and white light should feel emotionally hostile. • The red recording light is the emotional engine of the film—when it glows, the room feels accusatory; when it goes off, its reflection still haunts the frame. • Pacing should begin controlled and procedural, then tighten into escalating reveals, ending in a still, devastating silence. • Performance style: restrained, intelligent, and internal; the biggest turns happen in micro-reactions, not melodrama. • Thematic depth: identity as a composite of memory, guilt, and truth; the film should feel like a confession disguised as a scientific procedure. • Camera language: observational at first, then increasingly invasive as the truth emerges, with the monitor and waveform becoming narrative evidence.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Aman age: 39 look: Soft-spoken man in a cardigan with ink-stained fingers; physically present but emotionally uncertain, with a vulnerable, archival quality. dramatic_arc: Begins as a nervous volunteer, shifts into confusion and panic, then becomes a furious witness to his own reconstruction and death. • character: Dr. Saira age: 42 look: Composed, intimidating, lab coat, precise movements, surgeon-like control over the console; emotionally guarded until the reveal cracks her restraint. dramatic_arc: Starts as the authority figure managing the procedure, then reveals herself as a keeper of edited truth and finally a shaken participant in the confession. • character: Tia age: 28 look: Casual clothes, alert eyes, calm posture on the chair armrest; her stillness reads as either bravery or danger. dramatic_arc: Initially dry and detached, then becomes the emotional counterpoint to Saira, finally exposing the deepest moral clarity and fear at the end.
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 compact research lab office with a tight, controlled footprint that feels both functional and oppressive. The reclining chair should dominate the center-right of the room, with visible straps that read as medical and coercive. The recording console should sit within arm's reach of Saira, with tactile buttons, knobs, and a small switch that can trigger the red recording light. Multiple monitor screens should occupy the background plane, creating layered depth and allowing static, blurred corridor imagery, waveform graphics, and the RECONSTRUCTED MEMORY NODE label to appear clearly. Surfaces should be glass and brushed metal with sharp reflections, emphasizing sterility. Add subtle texture through cable runs, smudged fingerprints on glass, and slight wear on the chair upholstery to suggest repeated use. Spatially, the room should feel compact enough that all three characters are always visually trapped together, with no soft corners or warm domestic elements.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Aman: Cardigan with sleeves that can be tugged or bunched, casual but slightly worn; ink-stained fingers are essential continuity detail. Wardrobe should support a vulnerable, unguarded silhouette. • Dr. Saira: Clean lab coat over practical professional clothing; everything should be precise, pressed, and controlled. No loose accessories that break the surgical authority of her movement. • Tia: Casual clothes that contrast the lab environment; relaxed but not sloppy. Her wardrobe should allow her to sit on the armrest naturally and maintain a calm, observant presence.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Reclining chair with straps details: Central hero prop; should look clinical, slightly intimidating, and mechanically secure. • prop: Recording console details: Small console with visible buttons, knobs, and a switch for the red recording light; tactile and believable. • prop: Headphones details: Used by Saira to place on Aman; should feel utilitarian and wired into the procedure. • prop: Pen details: Used by Saira to hand over the form and maintain procedural authority. • prop: Form details: Paper form that Aman signs; should be visible enough to imply consent and bureaucracy. • prop: Monitor screens details: Display static, blurred corridor, distorted voices context, waveform, and the RECONSTRUCTED MEMORY NODE label. • prop: Red recording light details: Single glowing indicator that turns on during recording and remains emotionally present even after being switched off.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup minimal and realistic, with subtle under-eye fatigue and lab-appropriate natural skin. Aman should gradually show stress through slight pallor, tightened jaw, and shallow-breathing facial tension; his face should read increasingly drained as the reveal lands. Saira should remain polished, but a controlled sheen of sweat or slight skin tension can appear as her composure cracks. Tia should stay calm and clean, with only the slightest shift in expression at the end when her calmness cracks. No heavy SFX is required; the main effect is emotional distress reflected in micro-changes, eye focus, and lighting reactions on skin and glass.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Aman:** {'super_objective': 'To understand who he is and why he is here.', 'subtext': 'He is trying to stay polite and rational, but underneath he is terrified that his identity is being manufactured by others.'}
- **Dr. Saira:** {'super_objective': 'To control the procedure and preserve the project.', 'subtext': 'She speaks like a scientist, but every line is also an attempt to contain guilt and prevent the truth from escaping.'}
- **Tia:** {'super_objective': 'To force the truth into the open.', 'subtext': 'Her calmness is a shield; beneath it is moral urgency and the pain of remembering what Saira wants to edit away.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

AMAN

((nervous smile))

Bas ek ghanta? Doctor, meri life ka sabse embarrassing ghanta nikla toh?

TIA

((deadpan))

Phir bhi aapke regular hours se better hoga.

AMAN

((jerks against the straps))

Ruko. Ruko! Yeh main hoon? Aur yeh death kiski baat kar rahe ho?

TIA

((quiet, firm))

Nahi. Artifact nahi.

SAIRA

((controlled, precise))

Because you are not the subject.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a restrained, intimate camera style that begins with stable medium-wide coverage and gradually moves into tighter close-ups as the memory reveal destabilizes the room. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for the procedural dialogue, then shift to 85mm close-ups for emotional fracture and confession. Keep movement minimal but deliberate: slow push-ins, subtle reframing, and occasional monitor POV inserts to make the screen feel like evidence. The camera should never feel flashy; it should feel like it is witnessing a truth that cannot be contained.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Cool white overhead practicals establish the lab as sterile, clinical, and emotionally cold. Tier 2: Monitor spill and glass reflections add layered texture and create a sense of surveillance and fragmentation. Tier 3: The single red recording light becomes the emotional accent, intensifying the scene during the procedure and leaving a lingering visual echo even after it is switched off. As the reveal deepens, reduce perceived warmth further and let faces fall into harder contrast, especially during the final silence.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

The room tone should be clean, low, and slightly mechanical, with a faint HVAC hum and monitor fan presence. Foley should emphasize chair straps tightening, pen on paper, headphone placement, console clicks, knob turns, and the switch that activates the red light. The memory playback should introduce static, blurred corridor ambience, and distorted voices with a thin, unstable acoustic profile. During the reveal, let silence become oppressive so that the monitor fan feels almost guilty. End with a cold, sustained room tone and subtle electrical presence.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a cool, desaturated LUT with strong whites, steel blues, and neutral grays. Skin tones should remain slightly pale under the lab lighting, with the red recording light as the only saturated accent. Contrast should increase as the truth emerges, making the room feel more severe and the glass reflections more ominous. The final image should preserve the red reflection in the glass even after the light is off, creating a visual afterimage of guilt.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, art dressing, and console/monitor placement	Art, Grip, Camera
09:30 - 10:30	Block actors and mark chair, console, and armrest positions	Director, AD, Cast
10:30 - 12:00	Rig cool white practicals and test red recording light cues	Electric, Camera
12:00 - 13:00	Shoot procedural dialogue coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 14:30	Shoot memory playback inserts, monitor POVs, and reveal beats	Camera, VFX, Sound
14:30 - 15:30	Shoot climax, final silence, and red light off ending	Camera, Cast, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Keep the entire film in one controlled room with one hero chair, one console, and practical monitor playback. Use real reflections and screen inserts instead of expensive VFX wherever possible. The blurred corridor can be created with simple abstract footage, defocus, and distortion overlays. Limit wardrobe changes to continuity-safe single looks. Use motivated practical lighting rather than large soft sources. Shoot the reveal with performance and sound design carrying the tension, not expensive set expansion. The red recording light should be a simple but highly effective emotional device.

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

