

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE GIRL IN THE MIRROR

1 Male + 2 Female (M + F + F) | Genre: Horror/Supernatural | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek purane apartment ke bathroom mein Aakash ko apne mirror mein ek aisi aurat dikhne lagti hai jo room mein maujood nahi hoti. Jab Pallavi aur caretaker Madhuri bhi us reflection ki sachchai se takraate hain, toh unhe samajh aata hai ki yeh mirror past nahi, future dikhata hai—aur jo reflection mein ho chuka hai, woh abhi asli duniya mein hone wala hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: claustrophobic, decayed, supernatural realism with a single-location pressure-cooker feel. • The mirror is the true antagonist; frame composition should repeatedly privilege reflection over physical reality. • Pacing starts as skeptical domestic friction, then escalates into quiet dread, then snaps into inevitability. • Use stillness, micro-reactions, and delayed reveals instead of constant movement to make every flicker feel dangerous. • The bathroom should feel too small for three people and too large for the presence inside the mirror. • The final beat must feel like fate locking into place, not a jump scare.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Aakash age: 27 look: Sleep-deprived, red eyes, sleeveless vest, sweaty, tense neck rubs, visibly frayed nerves. dramatic_arc: Begins as a frightened witness to a haunting, becomes the first person to understand the mirror's future-vision logic, and ends trapped in the certainty that what he sees will happen. • character: Pallavi age: 24 look: Modern, practical, skeptical, phone torch held like a weapon, controlled exterior with growing unease. dramatic_arc: Starts as the rational skeptic dismissing Aakash's fear, then is forced into belief by the mirror, and finally becomes the most terrifying proof of the mirror's prophecy. • character: Madhuri age: 50 look: Faded caretaker uniform, bucket and keys bundle, calm face, matter-of-fact presence, quiet authority. dramatic_arc: Enters as an unshaken witness with prior knowledge, confirms the building's history of mirror hauntings, and gradually reveals that she understands the mirror's rules better than the others.
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, old apartment bathroom with a cramped footprint and oppressive verticality. The mirror must dominate the wall and feel oversized for the room, almost like a portal. The bulb above it should hang slightly imperfectly, with aged plastic or metal fittings and a weak, yellowed glow. Walls should show damp stains, chipped paint, and grime in corners. The sink area should be minimal and worn, with visible age in the tiles and grout. The doorway must allow Pallavi to stand near the threshold while still feeling trapped inside the frame. Add spatial layers through reflected depth: towel rack, bucket, soap, and door line should all be clearly readable in the mirror. The room should feel functional but neglected, with textures that catch flashlight glare and create hard specular highlights.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Aakash: Sleeveless vest, slightly stretched and sweat-soaked, with continuity of dampness and neck-rubbing posture. Keep the vest visibly clinging to the body throughout. • Pallavi: Modern casual practical clothing suitable for a late-night apartment setting, with a clean silhouette that contrasts Aakash's distress. Her phone must remain in hand as a continuity anchor. • Madhuri: Faded caretaker uniform with a lived-in, utilitarian look. The costume should suggest years of building maintenance, with practical pockets or folds that can hold keys and support the bucket-carrying action.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • Large wall mirror dominating the bathroom frame • Single yellow bulb above the mirror • Phone with harsh white flashlight beam • Bucket carried by Madhuri • Keys bundle with audible khanak • Towel rack near the bathroom door • Soap visible in the room and/or mirror reflection
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Aakash should have sleep deprivation makeup: red-rimmed eyes, slight under-eye darkness, sweat sheen, and a tense jaw. Pallavi should remain mostly clean but gradually show stress through tighter facial muscles and micro-sweat under flashlight glare. Madhuri should appear weathered but grounded, with age-appropriate texture and no supernatural styling. For the mirror woman, use wet-hair styling, blank eyes, pale complexion, and a subtle dead-calm expression. Lighting reactions should emphasize skin shine, eye reflections, and the contrast between warm bulb light and cold phone torch spill.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Aakash:** {'super_objective': 'To make the unseen threat stop and prove that he is not losing his mind.', 'subtext': 'Please believe me before this thing becomes real.'}
- **Pallavi:** {'super_objective': 'To protect the relationship from panic and expose the situation as irrational.', 'subtext': 'If I can explain this, I can control it.'}
- **Madhuri:** {'super_objective': 'To contain the mirror's influence and keep the others from crossing the point of no return.', 'subtext': 'I know what this building does, and I know what comes next.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

AAKASH

((*dabbi hui awaz mein*))
 Woh... phir se wahan thi.

PALLAVI

Kaun? Teri neend?

AAKASH

Main serious hoon, Pallavi.

PALLAVI

Aur main bhi. Tu teen raat se soya nahi hai.

AAKASH

Ek aurat.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a restrained, intimate horror grammar with mostly static or minimally drifting camera. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for natural perspective in the cramped bathroom, with occasional tighter close-ups for eyes, mouth, and hand tension. The mirror should be framed as a second stage inside the frame, so reflections become the primary storytelling surface. Slow push-ins can be used only when the mirror begins speaking or when the future-image becomes visible. Keep the camera at human eye level for realism, then subtly shift to slightly off-axis compositions when the reflection starts to dominate. Movement philosophy: let the actors and the mirror do the unsettling work; the camera should feel like a witness that cannot intervene.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Warm, weak practical bulb above the mirror as the base source, creating sickly yellow top-light and deep eye sockets. Tier 2: Pallavi's phone torch as a harsh white directional beam that slices across faces, mirror surface, and tiles, creating hard contrast and reflection flare. Tier 3: As the haunting escalates, introduce flicker, exposure shifts, and reflected bounce so the mirror appears brighter and more alive than the room. In the climax, let the room fall into near-darkness while the mirror retains readable detail, making the reflection feel like the only stable reality.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build the soundscape from tight bathroom acoustics: small-room reverb, tile slap, bulb hum, and the dry metallic khanak of Madhuri's keys. Aakash's neck rubs, breathing, and swallowed panic should be amplified. The phone torch should feel acoustically silent but visually aggressive. The mirror woman's voice must be soft, dead calm, and unnaturally close, with a slight spatial dislocation so it feels like it comes from inside the glass. Use silence aggressively before each reveal, and let the final darkness land on a near-total drop in ambient sound.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a desaturated, cold horror grade with sickly yellow practical highlights and steel-blue shadow bias. Preserve skin texture but suppress warmth in the room. The mirror should hold slightly higher contrast and cleaner specular detail than the physical space, making reflections feel more vivid than reality. In the climax, push blacks deeper while keeping the mirror readable, so the audience feels the reflection is the only place where information survives.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, mirror placement, practical bulb rig, and bathroom texture checks	Art, Grip, Electric
09:30 - 10:30	Camera blocking for mirror/reflection angles and actor eyelines	Director, Camera, Cast
10:30 - 12:00	Dialogue coverage for Aakash and Pallavi confrontation	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:00 - 13:00	Madhuri entrance, keys/bucket action, and mirror voice beats	Camera, Sound, Cast, Art
13:00 - 14:30	Climax setup with flicker, future-reflection reveal, and final blackout	Camera, Electric, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot in one real bathroom with controlled art dressing instead of building a set. Use one practical bulb, one phone torch, and one hidden bounce card to create all major looks. Keep the mirror clean and use careful camera angles to avoid crew reflections. Record the mirror woman's voice separately in a quiet room for cleaner control. Use sound design and performance timing to sell the supernatural events rather than expensive VFX. For the future-reflection effect, stage matching actor positions and cut between real room and mirror coverage instead of digital compositing.

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

