

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE WRONG PATIENT

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A hospital waiting room becomes the battleground for a family's buried truths when Manav hides the severity of his mother's illness, only to discover Ira has been hiding her own diagnosis. As Naina forces them to stop protecting each other with silence, the family must choose honesty over the comfort of denial.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: restrained, intimate, and emotionally pressurized; the room should feel still on the surface but heavy with unspoken history. • Thematic depth: truth as an act of love, and silence as both protection and damage; every pause should feel like a confession waiting to happen. • Pacing: slow-burn with sharp emotional turns; let the silence breathe before each reveal, then land the dialogue cleanly and without melodrama. • Performance style: naturalistic, contained, and lived-in; the biggest emotional shifts should happen in the eyes, hands, and breath. • Spatial storytelling: keep the three characters physically separated at first, then gradually bring them into a shared emotional frame as the truth is spoken. • Ending mood: not resolution, but fragile honesty; the final image should feel like the first real exhale in the room.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Manav age: 45 look: Crumpled shirt, tired face, hunched posture, eyes holding back tears, hands constantly occupied with the medical file. dramatic_arc: Begins as a man trying to control pain by withholding information; breaks when he realizes his protection has isolated him, and ends by accepting vulnerability and truth. • character: Ira age: 43 look: Composed but brittle, hospital visitor badge hanging from her bag, controlled body language, eyes that reveal exhaustion beneath restraint. dramatic_arc: Starts as emotionally guarded and observant, reveals she already knows the truth and has hidden her own diagnosis, then moves into honest emotional surrender without losing dignity. • character: Naina age: 68 look: Frail but dignified, seated in a wheelchair with a straight spine and sharp eyes, physically weak but mentally commanding. dramatic_arc: Initially silent and watchful, then becomes the moral center of the scene, forcing honesty and setting the terms for treatment and family truth.
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 quiet hospital waiting room with pale walls that feel slightly washed out under evening light. Use simple plastic chairs with visible wear, a functional water dispenser in one corner, and a side table for the tissue box and water cup. The room should have a sparse, institutional layout with enough negative space to emphasize emotional isolation. Add soft blinds that cast thin stripes of evening light across the floor and chairs. The corridor beyond should remain mostly unseen, but audible, to suggest a larger hospital world outside the room. Surfaces should feel clean but impersonal: matte walls, scuffed chair legs, faint reflections on plastic, and a clinical stillness that contrasts with the characters' inner turmoil.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Manav:** Crumpled shirt in muted, tired tones; sleeves slightly rumpled to suggest a long, stressful day. Keep continuity of disarray throughout, with no wardrobe reset after emotional escalation.
- **Ira:** Practical, understated clothing suitable for a hospital visit; the key continuity detail is the hospital visitor badge hanging from her bag. Her look should remain composed but slightly worn by stress.
- **Naina:** Simple, comfortable clothing appropriate for a frail elderly patient in a wheelchair. Wardrobe should support dignity over fragility, with no excessive styling; the focus is on her presence rather than costume.

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

- **prop:** Medical file | **details:** Held tightly by Manav; should look official, slightly worn from repeated opening and closing, and remain visible on the table by the end.
- **prop:** Tissue box | **details:** Placed near the water cup; tissues are used by Ira and later by Naina, making it a quiet emotional anchor in the scene.
- **prop:** Water cup | **details:** Simple hospital cup filled from the dispenser; Naina asks for water at the end, and Manav hands it to her.
- **prop:** Hospital visitor badge | **details:** Hangs from Ira's bag; should be clearly visible and later remain still in the final image.
- **prop:** Wheelchair | **details:** Naina's wheelchair should be functional, modest, and unobtrusive, with a subtle squeak or shift when she leans forward.
- **prop:** Water dispenser | **details:** Corner unit with a soft hum; should be visually present and practically usable for the final water moment.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup minimal and realistic. Manav should have tired under-eyes, slight facial sheen from stress, and tear tracks by the end. Ira should appear controlled at first, then show restrained tears, reddened eyes, and a slight tremble around the mouth. Naina should have age-appropriate makeup that emphasizes frailty without exaggeration; her skin can read slightly dry under the hospital lighting, with subtle pallor and physical weakness. No heavy SFX is needed, but the emotional distress should be supported by sweat-free realism, tear continuity, and lighting that reacts naturally on moist eyes and skin.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Manav:** {'super_objective': 'To protect his family from pain by controlling the truth.', 'subtext': 'If I say it out loud, everything will collapse; if I stay silent, maybe I can hold this together a little longer.'}
- **Ira:** {'super_objective': 'To prevent additional burden while preserving emotional stability.', 'subtext': 'I already know more than I said, and I'm exhausted from carrying truth alone.'}
- **Naina:** {'super_objective': 'To force honesty so the family can face reality together.', 'subtext': 'I know what you're doing, and I will not let you waste what time and strength remain on pretending.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

IRA

((dry))

File ko dekh rahe ho ya usse dhamka rahe ho?

MANAV

Maa ki report... Doctor ne bola hai, jo hum soch rahe the... usse zyada serious hai.

IRA

((softly))

Aur mujhe bachane ke chakkar mein tumne khud ko akela kar diya.

MANAV

Tumhe kaise pata?

IRA

Main andhi nahi hoon, Manav. Reports, half-heard conversations, nurse ka woh face...



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, observational framing with restrained movement. Favor 50mm to 85mm lenses for emotional compression, with occasional wider 35mm coverage to establish the room's isolation. Begin with static or minimally drifting compositions, then introduce subtle push-ins as truths emerge. Keep the camera at eye level or slightly below for dignity, especially on Naina. Avoid flashy coverage; let blocking and reaction shots carry the tension. The camera should feel like a quiet witness that becomes more emotionally involved as the scene progresses.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Soft evening ambient through blinds, creating thin directional stripes and a subdued institutional base.

Tier 2: Gentle motivated practicals and bounce fill to preserve facial detail while keeping the room emotionally flat and real.

Tier 3: Emotional escalation through slightly increased contrast on close-ups, allowing eyes, tears, and pauses to read clearly without breaking realism.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build a sparse hospital acoustic profile: soft water dispenser hum, distant PA announcements, occasional trolley wheel squeak, and faint corridor footfalls. Keep room tone low and airy, with a slight institutional reverb. Dialogue should sit cleanly in the mix, with silence used as a dramatic element. Foley details like tissue rustle, file pages opening and closing, wheelchair movement, and a cup being filled should be crisp and intimate.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a muted, desaturated LUT with pale hospital whites, cool grays, and soft evening amber from the blinds. Maintain restrained contrast, with slightly warmer skin tones emerging only in emotional close-ups. The palette should feel clinically calm but emotionally bruised, avoiding oversaturation. Final frames should hold a delicate balance between cold institutional space and the warmth of shared truth.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, art dressing, and placement of chairs, water dispenser, side table, wheelchair, and props	Art, Grip, Camera
09:30 - 10:30	Block actors and rehearse emotional beats, file handling, tissue placement, and water handoff	Director, Cast, AD, Camera
10:30 - 12:00	Rig soft evening-style lighting through blinds and test exposure on close-ups	Gaffer, Camera, Grip
12:00 - 13:00	Shoot wide establishing and dialogue master coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 14:30	Shoot emotional close-ups and reaction inserts of file, tissue, badge, and water cup	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:30 - 15:00	Capture final tableau and pickup inserts for continuity	Camera, Art, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use a real hospital-like waiting room or a minimally dressed office corridor to avoid expensive set construction. Rely on practical blinds and one motivated key light to create the evening look. Keep the cast small and the blocking simple so performance carries the scene. Use one camera with a limited lens package to reduce setup time. Reuse the same side table and chair arrangement for multiple angles. Let sound design do some of the emotional heavy lifting, especially the PA announcements and trolley wheel effects. Avoid over-styling the wardrobe so continuity remains easy and believable.

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



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Daastan-e-Dil