

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE PASSWORD IS MOTHER

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A young startup founder unveils a security AI that only unlocks with a maternal reference, but when the system rejects every obvious answer, his mother reveals the machine has been trained not on a password, but on his own buried memories. In a cramped conference room, a demo becomes a reckoning about technology, family, and the cost of not listening.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: polished futuristic office realism with an intimate emotional core; the room should feel clinically bright yet psychologically tense. • Thematic depth: the story is about memory, misrecognition, and the difference between using data and understanding people. • Pacing: start with confident tech-demo rhythm, then tighten into a pressure-cooker confrontation, and finally release into a quiet emotional reveal. • Performance style: restrained, intelligent, and layered; the biggest shifts should happen in micro-expressions and pauses. • Visual contrast: hard office light and glass surfaces against the softness of maternal presence and the warmth of memory. • Ending mood: not triumphant, but tender and corrective; the room should feel changed by the truth that has been spoken.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Neel age: 24 look: Graphic tee, restless energy, overconfident smile that gradually cracks into embarrassment and shame. dramatic_arc: Begins as a cocky founder selling a breakthrough, then becomes defensive when the system fails, and finally confronts the emotional truth that he has turned his mother into data without truly seeing her. • character: Dr. Padmini age: 49 look: Sleek business attire, composed posture, sharp eyes, judge-like stillness with controlled skepticism. dramatic_arc: Starts mildly amused and skeptical, escalates into direct technical criticism, then shifts into genuine surprise and professional respect when she realizes the system is a memory anchor rather than a lock. • character: Kusum age: 53 look: Simple house dress, calm face, observant eyes, understated presence that becomes quietly commanding. dramatic_arc: Initially silent and underestimated, then reveals precise insight into the system and the emotional truth behind it, ultimately becoming the one person who can unlock the prototype through natural maternal speech.
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 startup conference room with a glass wall should feel cramped but premium. The whiteboard must be heavily used, covered in equations, arrows, and messy AI architecture sketches to suggest frantic iteration. The table should hold a laptop connected by cable to a prototype device, with a phone, ID badge, whiteboard marker, and water bottle scattered in practical disorder. Glass reflections should add visual layers and a sense of being observed. Surfaces should be clean, modern, and slightly sterile, with enough lived-in clutter to show a real working demo space. The prototype device should be physically small but visually important, placed so the audience can track every reaction to it.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Neel:** Graphic tee with a casual startup-founder feel. Keep it consistent throughout; the look should support his overconfident, slightly underprepared energy.
- **Dr. Padmini:** Sleek business attire with a polished, authoritative silhouette. Wardrobe should reinforce her judge-like presence and professional control.
- **Kusum:** Simple house dress with no corporate polish. The contrast should make her look out of place at first, then quietly central as the emotional truth emerges.

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

- **prop:** Laptop | **details:** Connected by cable to the prototype device; must visibly show logs and the screen messages ACCESS DENIED, PRIMARY MATERNAL REFERENCE REQUIRED, ACCESS GRANTED, and EMOTIONAL ANCHOR RESTORED.
- **prop:** Prototype device | **details:** Small, futuristic-looking hardware unit that hums, blinks red on failure, and glows green on success.
- **prop:** Phone | **details:** Used by Kusum to play the old voice note; should feel like a normal personal phone, not a sci-fi prop.
- **prop:** Whiteboard marker | **details:** Used by Kusum to write under the equation: "Mother" ek label hai. Memory ek context.
- **prop:** Water bottle | **details:** Held by Kusum throughout; later handed to Neel after the reveal.
- **prop:** ID badge | **details:** Sits on the table and is picked up by Padmini at the end.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and office-realistic. Neel should gradually show stress through slight forehead shine, tension around the eyes, and a more rigid jaw as the demo collapses. Padmini should remain controlled, with minimal shine and crisp grooming, only allowing a subtle shift of surprise in the eyes and mouth. Kusum should be clean, calm, and unembellished, with a grounded maternal presence. No heavy SFX is needed; the only effects are emotional realism, slight sweat under pressure, and lighting reactions on faces as the prototype changes from red to green.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Neel | **super_objective:** To prove he has built something brilliant and secure. | **subtext:** Please believe I'm smarter than I look, and please don't expose that I've misunderstood the most important part.
- **character:** Dr. Padmini | **super_objective:** To evaluate whether the product is truly robust and worth trusting. | **subtext:** I will not be impressed by hype; show me the truth behind the architecture.
- **character:** Kusum | **super_objective:** To make Neel understand what he has actually built and what he has ignored. | **subtext:** I know this system better than you think, and I want you to finally hear me.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

NEEL

((trying to sound cool))

Okay, so... this is the security AI. It unlocks only with the correct maternal reference.

PADMINI

((mildly amused))

Maternal reference. Interesting. Or dangerous.

NEEL

((to device))

Mother.

PADMINI

((smirk))

Security AI hai ya family group chat?

KUSUM

((matter-of-fact))

"Mother" ek label hai. Memory ek context.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a controlled, intimate camera language that starts with stable medium-wide demo coverage and gradually moves into tighter close-ups as the emotional stakes rise. Favor 35mm and 50mm lenses for natural perspective in the cramped room, with occasional 85mm close-ups for emotional reveals. Keep movement minimal and purposeful: slow push-ins during confrontation, subtle handheld only when Neel's confidence fractures, and locked-off frames for Kusum's calm authority. Let the glass wall create layered reflections and visual separation between public professionalism and private family truth.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening: bright, even office lighting with clean white balance to establish the polished startup environment.
- 2) Confrontation: maintain the bright base but introduce slightly harder facial contrast through angle changes and practical screen light from the laptop/prototype, especially during red failure states.
- 3) Reveal and resolution: allow the green glow from the prototype and the laptop screen to become emotionally meaningful accents while keeping the room otherwise neutral, so the final beat feels warm, human, and quietly transformative.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

The room should have a soft office ambience: faint HVAC, distant building hush, subtle chair movement, laptop fan, and the prototype's low hum. The red failure state should be punctuated by a clean beep that feels clinical and unforgiving. The voice note playback should sound slightly crackly and intimate, like a preserved memory. Kusum's final line should land in near-silence, with the prototype's green confirmation beep and a gentle listening hum underneath.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a clean, modern LUT with cool whites, neutral grays, and restrained corporate blues. Keep skin tones natural but slightly desaturated at first to emphasize the sterile environment. During the reveal, allow the green access light to stand out as the only vivid emotional color. The final image should feel subtly warmer without becoming sentimental, preserving the polished office look while softening the emotional temperature.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, whiteboard continuity, and prop placement	Art, Props, Continuity
09:30 - 10:30	Block actors and rehearse demo beats	Director, Cast, AD
10:30 - 12:00	Rig bright office lighting and screen-light cues	Camera, G&E,, Art
12:00 - 13:30	Shoot opening demo and failed unlock attempts	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:30 - 14:30	Shoot confrontation, whiteboard reveal, and voice note playback	Camera, Sound, Cast, Script Supervisor
14:30 - 15:30	Shoot final access grant, emotional beat, and closing reactions	Camera, Cast, G&E;

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Keep the entire film in one practical conference room to eliminate company moves. Use existing office lighting as the base and add only small motivated accents from the laptop and prototype. The prototype can be built as a simple LED box with red and green states. The whiteboard should be reused as a major visual storytelling surface instead of adding extra set dressing. Record the voice note as a clean off-camera playback to avoid extra sound complexity. Shoot coverage efficiently by grouping all failed attempts together, then all reveal beats, then the final reaction shots.

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

