

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

AUNTIE ON THE LINE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE:

A nervous young man tries to break up with his girlfriend on a small sunset balcony, but his plans unravel when a nosy auntie on speakerphone turns the private confrontation into a public comedy of errors. What begins as a breakup becomes a chaotic lesson in honesty, embarrassment, and neighborhood surveillance.

DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT:

- Keep the comedy grounded and observational, with awkward pauses doing as much work as the dialogue.
- Treat the balcony like a pressure cooker: intimate enough for confession, public enough for humiliation.
- Let Bela's voice become a comic force that keeps invading the frame and the emotional rhythm.
- Pace should start tense and restrained, then escalate into fast interruptions, then land on a quiet, awkward comic release.
- Visual tone: warm sunset realism with a slightly heightened sitcom-like timing, but never broad slapstick.
- Thematic core: honesty is hard, privacy is fragile, and society always has an opinion.

CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS:

- **character:** Kunal | **age:** 27 | **look:** Casual clothes, restless body language, phone always in hand, visibly tense and increasingly exposed as the scene progresses. | **dramatic_arc:** Starts as a man trying to control a breakup conversation, collapses under interruption and guilt, then finally speaks the truth and ends in helpless embarrassment.
- **character:** Simran | **age:** 26 | **look:** Sharp, composed, arms folded, direct gaze, emotionally guarded but quick to react with dry humor and controlled irritation. | **dramatic_arc:** Begins skeptical and confrontational, shifts into wounded clarity, briefly softens when Kunal is honest, and ends amused despite herself.
- **character:** Bela | **age:** 62 | **look:** Only heard through speakerphone; loud, intrusive, observant, and unexpectedly sharp beneath the gossiping exterior. | **dramatic_arc:** Starts as comic interruption, becomes accidental truth-teller, then reveals herself as the mastermind behind the recording and the bet.

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 balcony at sunset, designed to feel intimate and dangerously public at the same time. The space should be narrow enough that the actors are forced into close proximity, with visible neighboring balconies in the background to suggest constant social exposure. Key set elements: hanging laundry on a clothesline, a plastic chair, a laundry basket, and an half-finished tea cup placed casually to one side. Surfaces should feel lived-in: slightly dusty balcony floor, weathered railing, soft fabric textures on the clothes, and a practical urban apartment finish. The balcony should allow clear sightlines outward so the audience feels the possibility of being watched, even when no one is visible.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Kunal: Casual everyday clothes, slightly rumpled to reflect nervousness and lack of control. No flashy styling. Continuity note: phone remains in hand or near hand throughout, reinforcing his dependence on it as a shield. • Simran: Sharp, clean, and composed casual wear that reads as emotionally organized. Arms-folded posture should be supported by wardrobe that allows strong silhouette and clean lines. Continuity note: outfit should remain neat to contrast Kunal's agitation. • Bela: Not physically seen, but her presence is implied through the phone call. No wardrobe continuity required on screen beyond the voice identity.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Phone details: Kunal's handheld phone must visibly vibrate, show Bela's name on screen, and accidentally switch to speaker mode. It is the central comic and dramatic prop. • prop: Speakerphone audio source details: The phone must clearly project Bela's voice into the balcony space, making the private conversation public. • prop: Laundry line with hanging clothes details: Softly moving garments that catch the sunset light and create a domestic backdrop. • prop: Plastic chair details: Simple, slightly worn balcony chair placed as a visual anchor in the frame. • prop: Laundry basket details: Placed near the side, reinforcing the everyday domestic setting. • prop: Tea cup details: Half-finished cup on the side, suggesting an interrupted ordinary evening.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup natural and realistic. Kunal should gradually show stress through slight forehead sheen, tension around the eyes, and a faintly drained look as the scene escalates. Simran should remain clean and composed, with minimal shine and controlled expression. Use subtle sweat and heat response appropriate to sunset warmth. No heavy SFX required. Bela is voice-only, so no physical makeup needed on screen.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Kunal:** {'super_objective': 'To end the relationship without causing more pain and without losing control of the situation.', 'subtext': 'I want out, but I'm terrified of being the bad guy and even more terrified of direct confrontation.'}
- **Simran:** {'super_objective': 'To force honesty and refuse to be managed by vague excuses.', 'subtext': 'I already know what's happening; I just want you to say it clearly and stop insulting my intelligence.'}
- **Bela:** {'super_objective': 'To stay entertained, stay informed, and prove she knows everything happening in the society.', 'subtext': 'I'm pretending to gossip, but I'm actually controlling the room and enjoying every second of it.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

SIMRAN

Bol. Aaj bhi “bas ek minute” wala scene hai?

SIMRAN

Kunal, main teen minute se dekh rahi hoon. Tu phone ko aise pakde hai jaise usme teri himmat stored ho.

SIMRAN

Space? Balcony pe khade ho, aur space chahiye?

BELA (V.O.)

Kunal beta! Tumhari balcony se jhadoo niche gir gaya tha. Maine utha diya. Aur haan, tum log itne serious kyun lag rahe ho? Shaadi ki discussion chal rahi hai kya?

SIMRAN

Kunal, tu breakup se zyada neighborhood surveillance mein phasa hua lag raha hai.



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

Use intimate medium close-ups and tight two-shots to trap the characters in the balcony's limited space. Start with restrained static framing, then introduce subtle handheld pressure as the conversation becomes more exposed. Bela's voice should be treated like an off-screen character entering the frame through sound, with occasional reaction inserts on the phone screen. Favor 35mm to 50mm lens behavior for natural perspective, with occasional tighter close-ups for emotional punch and comic timing. Camera movement philosophy: observe first, then react; let the frame feel like it is eavesdropping.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening: warm golden sunset key light from one side, soft fill from ambient sky, with gentle backlight on laundry for a domestic glow.
- 2) Mid-scene escalation: maintain sunset warmth but increase contrast slightly so faces feel more exposed; use phone screen glow as a cool accent on Kunal's hands and face during the call.
- 3) Final beat: let the sunset deepen into richer amber and soft shadow, with the balcony feeling more public through visible background separation and subtle edge light on the characters.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Natural balcony ambience with faint city noise, distant traffic, and occasional neighborhood life. Foley should emphasize phone vibration, speakerphone distortion, fabric flutter from the laundry, and small physical shifts like Kunal's grip on the phone or Simran's movement when she folds her arms tighter. Bela's voice should sound loud, compressed, and slightly tinny through speakerphone, making every interruption feel invasive. The room tone should remain airy and open, reinforcing the public-private tension.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm sunset palette with golden highlights, soft amber skin tones, and muted urban neutrals. Keep the balcony environment slightly desaturated so the characters and phone screen stand out. Bela's speakerphone moments can be accented by a cooler phone-screen tint on Kunal's face. Final grade should preserve the comic warmth while allowing the emotional embarrassment to land in the shadows.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Art department balcony dressing, laundry placement, prop continuity check	Art, Props
09:00 - 10:30	Lighting rig and sunset simulation setup	Camera, G&E;
10:30 - 11:30	Blocking rehearsal with actors and phone/speakerphone timing	Director, Cast, Sound
11:30 - 13:00	Shoot dialogue master and two-shots	Camera, Cast, Sound
13:00 - 14:00	Shoot close-ups, phone inserts, reaction beats	Camera, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot in a real balcony with minimal dressing and rely on natural sunset light whenever possible. Use one practical phone as the main hero prop and record Bela's voice separately for clean playback. Keep the set small so the actors' blocking creates the comedy. Use a single bounce board and one negative fill cloth to shape faces. Neighbor balconies can be suggested with simple background framing rather than full dressing. Prioritize performance timing over coverage-heavy shooting.

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

