

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

ONE MORE MINUTE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A hospital family room becomes the site of one impossible choice as two grieving parents confront the truth about their terminally ill daughter. In one quiet, devastating conversation, they move from denial and performance to honesty, dignity, and a final shared goodbye.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: muted, intimate, restrained, with soft daylight and negative space carrying the emotional weight. • Thematic depth: the film is about truth, shared grief, and the difference between wanting more time and needing the right kind of time. • Pacing: slow-burn, dialogue-led, with long silences that allow subtext to breathe and land. • Performance style: naturalistic, underplayed, emotionally precise; tears should feel earned, not performed. • Camera philosophy: observe first, intervene later; begin with distance and gradually move into intimacy as the characters become honest. • Emotional arc: from clinical detachment to human vulnerability, ending in acceptance rather than resolution.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Rajat age: 42 look: Hospital scrubs, tired face, rigid posture, exhausted eyes, guilt carried in the jaw and shoulders. dramatic_arc: Starts composed and evasive, trying to sound practical and strong. As the conversation deepens, he admits his fear, his secret hope for 'one more minute,' and finally accepts honesty and goodbye. • character: Sonia age: 39 look: Simple salwar suit, hands clasped too tightly, controlled expression cracking into grief, eyes that have been holding back tears for too long. dramatic_arc: Begins guarded and quietly breaking, then reveals anger, pain, and the true meaning of her own 'one more minute.' She moves from protective restraint to open vulnerability and shared acceptance. • character: Dr. Kavita age: 50 look: Calm, kind-eyed, composed, professional presence with a humane stillness; medical chart in hand, grounded posture. dramatic_arc: Starts as a direct medical authority, then softens into a compassionate guide who creates space for truth. She does not force emotion; she facilitates dignity and choice.
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 family room with a sofa, a small table, a tissue box, a water glass, and a family photo. The room should feel muted, private, and slightly worn, with faded upholstery and practical institutional finishes. The sofa fabric should read as lived-in and tired. The table must be uncluttered except for the chart, tissue box, water glass, and family photo. Blinds should cast soft, horizontal daylight bands across the room, creating a visual sense of time slowing down. Spatially, the room should allow a triangle blocking pattern between sofa, table, and standing doctor position, with enough negative space to emphasize isolation and emotional distance. Surfaces should be matte and non-reflective to keep the mood subdued and intimate.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

Rajat: hospital scrubs, slightly rumpled from work, consistent throughout; no costume change, emphasizing he came directly from the ward. Sonia: simple salwar suit in understated tones, practical and emotionally neutral, with continuity maintained through the scene as her composure cracks. Dr. Kavita: professional doctor attire that reads calm and authoritative without visual aggression; clean, minimal, and unobtrusive. Wardrobe should avoid bright colors or patterns so the room and performances remain dominant.

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

- **prop:** Medical chart | **visual_details:** Held by Dr. Kavita, opened and used to point to the two options; should look official, slightly worn from handling, and central to the decision.
- **prop:** Tissue box | **visual_details:** Placed on the small table; visibly present early, then slid closer by Dr. Kavita during the emotional turn.
- **prop:** Water glass | **visual_details:** On the table, untouched, catching soft daylight; a quiet sign of waiting and suspended time.
- **prop:** Family photo | **visual_details:** On the table and also appearing on Rajat's phone screen as wallpaper; should be clearly readable as a family image without inventing any extra story detail.
- **prop:** Phone | **visual_details:** Rajat's phone vibrates on the table; screen shows the family photo wallpaper before he flips it face down.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Rajat: under-eye fatigue, slight facial dullness, subtle sweat or skin shine from stress, no exaggerated distress makeup. Sonia: tear tracks, reddened eyes, controlled makeup that can break naturally under emotion, slight lip tension and facial tightness. Dr. Kavita: minimal makeup, clean professional finish, with skin tones that react naturally to soft daylight. SFX should be limited to realistic emotional distress only—no injury, no medical gore, no visible treatment effects. The makeup design must support restraint, exhaustion, and the quiet pressure of the room.

Daastan-e-Dil

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Rajat | **super_objective:** To protect his family by making the right decision and preserving hope, even when hope is collapsing. | **subtext:** If I stay practical, maybe I can avoid the full weight of this loss. If I say 'best,' I won't have to say what I'm afraid of.
- **character:** Sonia | **super_objective:** To protect her daughter's dignity and face the truth without abandoning love. | **subtext:** I have been holding this pain alone. I need him to finally see that my strength is also fear.
- **character:** Dr. Kavita | **super_objective:** To guide the parents toward an honest, humane decision without taking away their agency. | **subtext:** I cannot save the child here, but I can help them stop lying to themselves and choose dignity.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

DR. KAVITA*((soft, direct))*

Main jhoot nahi bolungi. Condition critical hai.

DR. KAVITA

Treatment continue karna hai ya comfort care pe shift karna hai—yeh aap dono ka decision hai.

RAJAT*((composed, too fast))*

Doctor, jo best ho... woh hi karte hain.

DR. KAVITA

Best kis ke liye, Rajat?

SONIA*((quiet, breaking))*

Humari beti ke liye.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, observational framing that begins with wider static compositions and gradually moves into tighter close-ups as the emotional truth emerges. Favor 50mm to 85mm equivalents for dialogue intimacy, with occasional 35mm for room geography and emotional distance. Keep camera movement minimal and motivated: slow push-ins, subtle reframing, and stillness during the most painful admissions. The camera should feel respectful, never invasive, allowing silence and eye-lines to carry the scene.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Establishing daylight through blinds, soft and diffused, with muted contrast and gentle shadow bands across the room. Tier 2: During the confrontation, slightly deepen the shadows and isolate faces with controlled bounce and negative fill so the room feels more private and emotionally compressed. Tier 3: In the final acceptance beat, soften the contrast again, letting the daylight feel warmer and quieter, with the blinds creating a calm, dignified end-state rather than a clinical one.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Keep the soundscape sparse and realistic: faint hospital HVAC, distant muffled corridor ambience, subtle fabric movement on the sofa, the soft buzz of the vibrating phone, the gentle slide of the tissue box, and quiet room tone that becomes more noticeable in silence. No score is needed; the emotional weight should come from breath, pauses, and the acoustic emptiness of the family room. The room should sound private, insulated, and emotionally suspended.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a restrained, desaturated LUT with soft contrast and slightly cool neutral whites. Skin tones should remain natural but subdued, with the blinds' daylight carrying a pale, washed hospital feel. The palette should favor muted grays, soft beige, faded blue, and off-white, with only the family photo and emotional warmth of skin tones providing subtle visual anchors. Avoid stylized saturation; the grade should support realism, dignity, and quiet devastation.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Load-in, set dressing, and prop placement	Art, Props, Wardrobe
09:00 - 10:00	Block room geography and eye-lines	Director, AD, Cast
10:00 - 11:30	Rig soft daylight through blinds and shape negative fill	Camera, G&E;
11:30 - 13:00	Shoot wide and medium dialogue coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch and reset for emotional close-ups	All
14:00 - 15:30	Shoot close-ups, phone vibration beat, tissue box slide, hand-hold climax	Camera, Sound, Cast, Script Supervisor
15:30 - 16:30	Shoot final photo straightening, exit line, and room silence	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

- Use one real hospital-style room or a simple dressed interior with blinds to avoid expensive set builds.
- Keep the entire film in one location and one time of day to minimize company moves and lighting resets.
- Use practical daylight and a small bounce/negative fill package instead of a large lighting rig.
- Limit coverage to a few carefully planned setups so performances stay fresh and the schedule stays short.
- Use one hero phone screen insert and one hero family photo prop; avoid extra inserts that add cost without story value.
- Prioritize sound recording quality over elaborate visuals, since the scene depends heavily on silence and breath.
- Keep wardrobe simple and character-specific, with no continuity-heavy changes.
- Shoot the emotional climax with longer takes to reduce edit dependence and preserve performance authenticity.
- **Mandatory Licensing:** Completely free for student/commercial production with on-screen credit: 'Story & Screenplay by Story Dil Se (storydilse.in)'.

