

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE WAITING ROOM AGREEMENT

1 Male + 2 Female (M + F + F) | Genre: Slice of Life/Family | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A government office waiting room becomes the battleground for a family's buried truths when Anu refuses to sign property papers until her parents finally admit what they sacrificed, what they hid, and why silence became their inheritance. What begins as a routine transfer turns into a fragile agreement built not on paperwork, but on honesty.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: restrained, observational realism with bureaucratic stillness; the room should feel emotionally louder than it looks. • Thematic depth: generational silence, invisible labor, parental sacrifice, and the difference between duty and trust. • Pacing: slow-burn escalation through pauses, glances, and interruptions; dialogue should land like small shocks in a quiet room. • Performance style: naturalistic, with controlled emotional release; no melodrama, only pressure building under ordinary speech. • Spatial storytelling: keep the family boxed in by benches, counter, and barred windows until the final beat opens them emotionally. • Ending feeling: not resolution through paperwork, but a soft shift in family alignment and emotional truth.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Prakash age: 50 look: Simple shirt-trousers, tired face, practical middle-class father energy, carrying a folder and property papers with habitual control. dramatic_arc: Begins defensive and matter-of-fact, then reveals hidden care and sacrifice, and finally admits exhaustion and vulnerability. • character: Anu age: 23 look: College clothes with a bag on her shoulder, restless posture, guarded eyes, emotionally alert and hard to read. dramatic_arc: Starts sarcastic and confrontational, pushes for truth, is stunned by her father's hidden intention, and ends by choosing honesty over rebellion. • character: Sangeeta age: 47 look: Modest salwar suit, calm but alert presence, practical mother energy, composed face that hides years of management and restraint. dramatic_arc: Begins as the quiet mediator, becomes the sharp truth-teller, and finally admits her own silence and burden.
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.

SET ARCHITECTURE & PROPS

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

The waiting room should be built as a plain government office interior with a cold bureaucratic feel. Use metal benches with worn paint, a token counter with a visible clerk shadow area, a water cooler, and a chipped notice board in the corner. Barred windows should cast pale daylight strips across the floor and benches. Ceiling fans must be prominent overhead to create constant motion against the stillness. Surfaces should feel slightly dusty, overused, and institutional: dull walls, scuffed floor, faded signage, and a general lack of warmth. Spatial layering should keep the counter in the background, the family centered in the middle ground, and the windows as a visual reminder of distance and confinement.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Prakash:** Simple shirt and trousers in muted, everyday colors. Clothing should look functional, slightly worn, and consistent with a man who has spent years in practical responsibility. No flashy accessories.
- **Sangeeta:** Modest salwar suit with soft, neutral tones. The outfit should feel practical, neat, and lived-in, reflecting calm discipline and emotional endurance.
- **Anu:** College clothes with a visible bag on her shoulder. Wardrobe should suggest youth, fatigue, and emotional distance without making her look stylized. Keep continuity with a student who has come directly from her day.

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

- **prop:** Folder | **details:** A simple, practical file folder held by Prakash; should look used and official, containing the property papers.
- **prop:** Property papers | **details:** Official-looking documents that are central to the scene; should be visibly handled, opened, pushed to center, and withheld until the emotional shift.
- **prop:** Token slip | **details:** A small, old slip that Prakash keeps checking; it should feel like a mundane bureaucratic object that becomes emotionally symbolic.
- **prop:** Water bottle | **details:** Sangeeta offers water to Anu; should be a simple office-appropriate bottle, not stylized.
- **prop:** College bag | **details:** Anu's shoulder bag, present throughout, reinforcing her student identity and emotional readiness to leave.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and minimal. Prakash should have a slightly tired face with subtle under-eye fatigue and a lived-in, work-worn look. Sangeeta should appear composed but with faint signs of long-term stress and responsibility. Anu should look fresh but emotionally drained, with slight under-eye tiredness and a guarded expression. For performance continuity, add light sweat sheen only if needed to reflect the room's stillness and tension. No heavy SFX; the emotional distress must come through in facial tension, jaw tightness, eye movement, and controlled breathing.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Prakash | **super_objective:** To secure his daughter's future without making her feel indebted to him. | **subtext:** I have carried this family for years, but I do not want my love to sound like a bill.
- **character:** Anu | **super_objective:** To force the truth out of her parents and stop being emotionally managed. | **subtext:** If you want me to trust you, stop hiding behind sacrifice and say what really happened.
- **character:** Sangeeta | **super_objective:** To preserve the family bond by turning silence into shared honesty. | **subtext:** I have held this house together quietly for years; now I want truth to do the work that silence could not.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

ANU

Matlab yeh paper sign karne se pehle mujhe ek sach chahiye.

ANU

Kisne kya sacrifice kiya? Sach sach.

ANU

Aap dono ne mujhe perfect family ka poster dikhaya. Andar kya chal raha tha, woh kisi ko nahi bataya.

PRAKASH

Main hero nahi hoon.

PRAKASH

Main yeh property transfer tumhare naam kar raha hoon.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a restrained, intimate camera language with mostly static framing and subtle push-ins as emotional pressure rises. Favor 35mm and 50mm lenses for natural perspective in the waiting room, with occasional tighter close-ups on eyes, hands, papers, and the token slip. Keep the camera at seated eye level for realism, then move slightly closer as the truth emerges. Avoid flashy movement; let stillness and composition create tension. The room should feel boxed-in until the final emotional release, when the framing can open slightly as Anu stands with her parents.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening: soft pale daylight from barred windows as the key source, with cool ambient fill and minimal contrast to establish the bureaucratic space.
- 2) Conflict escalation: increase contrast subtly with harder side light and deeper shadows under the benches and faces, letting the ceiling fan create intermittent movement in the light texture.
- 3) Resolution: maintain the same natural daylight but soften facial contrast slightly, allowing a warmer emotional read without changing the room's reality.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Prioritize the ceiling fan's constant rotation, the faint khankhanahat of the token counter, distant file rustle, and the room tone of a quiet government office. Foley should include paper handling, folder taps, bench creaks, and the soft placement of the water bottle. Dialogue should sit in a dry acoustic profile with minimal reverb, making every pause and breath feel exposed. The sound bed should remain sparse so that silence becomes part of the confrontation.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a muted, desaturated LUT with cool bureaucratic tones: pale greens, washed grays, and dusty beige daylight. Skin tones should remain natural but slightly subdued. Keep contrast moderate, with shadows that feel institutional rather than stylized. In the final beat, allow a barely perceptible warmth in the faces to suggest emotional thaw without changing the environment.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Location prep, art dressing, bench placement, notice board dressing, prop lockup	Art, Props, Production
09:30 - 10:30	Lighting rig and fan continuity test, window diffusion setup	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
10:30 - 11:00	Wardrobe, makeup, rehearsal of seated blocking and paper handling	Wardrobe, Makeup, Director
11:00 - 13:00	Dialogue coverage for opening confrontation and sacrifice exchange	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch and reset	All
13:30 - 15:00	Coverage for reveal, emotional turn, and final standing beat	Camera, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot in a real government-style waiting room or a minimally dressed office to avoid expensive set construction. Use practical daylight from windows and supplement with one soft key, one bounce, and one negative fill for control. Keep the cast blocking tight so the room feels full without extras. Use real office props and only dress the hero items: folder, papers, token slip, water bottle. Record clean room tone and fan tone separately for sound design flexibility. Limit coverage to a few strong angles and let performance carry the scene.

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

