

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE THIRD BRIDE

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Mystery/Crime | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A wedding-night missing ring investigation in a hotel bridal suite exposes a hidden identity fraud, forcing a bride, a venue manager, and an inspector to confront the cost of silence. As the ceremony noise swells outside, the truth inside the room becomes more dangerous than the theft itself.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: elegant, claustrophobic, and suspicious—luxury surfaces hiding moral rot. • The bridal suite should feel like a pressure cooker: soft yellow warmth outside, cold truth inside. • Pacing starts controlled and investigative, then tightens into sharp reversals and a final emotional crack. • Use mirrors, reflections, and framed compositions to reinforce identity, duplication, and concealment. • Keep performances restrained; the tension should live in pauses, glances, and object handling. • The final reveal should feel inevitable, not flashy—like the room itself has been lying.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Inspector Pooja age: 36 look: Crisp shirt and trousers, grounded posture, notebook always in hand; sharp eyes, composed authority. dramatic_arc: Begins as a controlled investigator assuming a theft, then reads the room's micro-signals, uncovers the identity fraud, and ends as the moral voice that refuses to let the wedding proceed on a lie. • character: Ananya age: 31 look: Red bridal outfit, makeup intact but eyes alert; jewelry slightly askew, dupatta slipping, body held in tense stillness. dramatic_arc: Starts defensive and rehearsed, insists the missing ring is sabotage, then freezes under evidence, and finally breaks by admitting she knew the truth but stayed silent out of fear. • character: Seema age: 44 look: Formal wear, polished and cautious, master keys clutched tightly; controlled face with a defensive edge. dramatic_arc: Initially appears like a professional manager minimizing the incident, then reveals she hid the ring, and ultimately becomes the catalyst who forces the truth into the open.
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: Bridal suite interior with elegant hotel polish and subtle tension. • Vanity bulbs with warm yellow spill around the mirror, creating a flattering but interrogative glow. • Soft yellow lamp as a secondary practical source, adding pockets of warmth and shadow. • Bed dressed with half-packed trousseau, suitcase, guest list, and open ring box to anchor the investigation visually. • Mirror must be large enough to hold all three women in reflection at key moments. • Textures: satin, velvet, polished wood, glass, metal key bunch, crisp paper documents. • Spatial layers: mirror wall, bed plane, luggage corner, locker/wall storage, and doorway for inspector entry. • The room should feel elegant but slightly disturbed, as if someone has already searched and re-set the space.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character: Inspector Pooja costume: Crisp shirt and trousers in a neutral, professional palette; practical shoes; no decorative excess. continuity_notes: Notebook remains in hand or within immediate reach; clothing should stay neat and authoritative throughout. • character: Ananya costume: Red bridal outfit with dupatta, bridal jewelry, and makeup intact; jewelry placement slightly imperfect to suggest hurried preparation. continuity_notes: Dupatta should be seen on shoulder or bed edge and later slipping onto the bed; jewelry remains subtly askew across scenes. • character: Seema costume: Formal hotel management wear, polished and conservative, with a professional silhouette. continuity_notes: Master keys must remain visible in hand until the reveal; wardrobe should read controlled, defensive, and institutional.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Wedding ring box details: Open box on bed at start; velvet slot should look freshly pressed and later contain the ring when revealed from the locker. • prop: Master keys set details: Held tightly by Seema; must feel heavy, official, and slightly ominous. • prop: Guest list details: Visible on bed and later handled by Pooja; includes the name A. Mehra twice. • prop: Suitcase details: Half-open, with a file peeking out; should look like a hurried, half-finished departure or arrival. • prop: File with documents details: Contains two passport photocopies and an old photograph; must be physically discoverable from the suitcase. • prop: Old photograph details: Shows the same bridal room and same lehenga, with a different name written on the back. • prop: Wall locker details: Used by Seema to hide and then retrieve the ring box; should be believable as hotel storage. • prop: Notebook details: Pooja's investigative notebook; used to punctuate the reveal and final judgment.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): • Ananya: bridal makeup intact but slightly stressed under the eyes; subtle shine on skin to suggest heat and tension. • Pooja: minimal, clean, matte professional finish; no glamour, only authority. • Seema: polished management look with controlled complexion, but allow slight stress sheen as the scene escalates. • SFX needs are minimal and realistic: no injuries, only emotional distress cues—tight jaw, held breath, watery eyes, and a faint sweat sheen under warm bulbs. • Lighting reaction should preserve skin texture and make the bridal makeup appear slightly too perfect, reinforcing the theme of performance.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Inspector Pooja | **super_objective:** To uncover the truth behind the missing ring and expose what the room is hiding. | **subtext:** She is not just solving a theft; she is reading people for the lie beneath the lie.
- **character:** Ananya | **super_objective:** To keep the wedding from collapsing while protecting herself from the consequences of the truth. | **subtext:** She wants the ceremony to continue, but every answer she gives is a shield against panic and shame.
- **character:** Seema | **super_objective:** To force the truth out before a false marriage is legally sealed. | **subtext:** Her professionalism is a cover for moral intervention; she is trying to control damage by breaking protocol.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

P00JA

Ring gayi hai. Shaadi se bas minutes pehle. Toh ab sabse pehle, koi drama nahi.

ANANYA

Drama? Inspector, mere wedding day pe ring gayab ho gayi aur aap mujhe drama bol rahi hain?

P00JA

Guest list mein A. Mehra ka naam do baar kyun likha hai?

ANANYA

Meri shaadi hai, Inspector. Ring gayi ya nahi, ceremony rukni nahi chahiye.

P00JA

Yeh slot... naya sa kyun lag raha hai?



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, investigative framing with a restrained handheld or slow-steady feel. Favor 35mm and 50mm for conversational tension, 85mm for emotional compression, and occasional mirror-reflection compositions to split identity. Movement philosophy: minimal but purposeful—slow push-ins on reveals, static holds for lies, and slight reframing when the truth shifts. Keep the camera close enough to read micro-reactions, but wide enough to preserve the room's geometry and the evidence layout.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Base layer: warm vanity bulbs and soft yellow lamp create a bridal glow that feels safe at first but slightly overexposed on skin and reflective surfaces.
- 2) Investigation layer: subtly lower ambient fill as Pooja starts cross-checking details, allowing shadows to deepen around the bed, locker, and corners.
- 3) Reveal layer: increase contrast and isolate faces with practical-driven key light, using the mirror and lamp to create split reflections and a colder emotional feel without changing the room's source logic.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

- Exterior wedding sound should remain muffled but persistent: dhol, laughter, corridor movement, and distant ceremony energy.
- Interior room tone should be tight, quiet, and airless, with subtle cloth rustle, key jingle, paper handling, and the soft click of the ring box.
- Emphasize pauses and breath sounds during the reveal.
- The locker opening and ring box placement should land as key sonic beats.
- Acoustic profile: plush hotel suite dampening, with soft reflections from hard surfaces like mirror and luggage hardware.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm amber and honey tones for the bridal suite, but with controlled contrast to keep the room from feeling romantic. Skin tones should remain natural yet slightly tense under vanity bulbs. Use muted reds for Ananya's lehenga, polished neutrals for Pooja and Seema, and preserve metallic highlights on keys and jewelry. The final look should feel luxurious, enclosed, and morally uneasy.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, prop placement, mirror cleaning, wardrobe continuity check	Art, Wardrobe, Props
09:00 - 10:00	Lighting rig with vanity practicals and lamp motivation	Camera, Gaffer, Electric
10:00 - 10:30	Blocking for mirror positions, bed coverage, and locker reveal	Director, Camera, Cast
10:30 - 12:00	Dialogue coverage for opening confrontation and guest list reveal	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:00 - 13:00	Insert shots: ring box, keys, file, photograph, notebook	Camera, Props, Script Supervisor
13:00 - 14:00	Locker reveal, emotional breakdown, final mirror tableau	Camera, Cast, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

- Use one real hotel bridal suite or a dressed room with practical vanity bulbs to avoid heavy lighting spend.
- Build tension through blocking and reflections instead of expensive set extensions.
- Keep props minimal but specific: one ring box, one file, one key bunch, one suitcase, one guest list.
- Shoot the entire scene in a single location with coverage planned around the mirror and bed axis.
- Use natural room textures and practicals to reduce art department load.
- Prioritize performance and sound design over complex camera movement.
- **Mandatory Licensing:** Completely free for student/commercial production with on-screen credit: 'Story & Screenplay by Story Dil Se (storydilse.in)'.

