

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

ROOMMATES, INC.

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Pure Comedy | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A tiny shared office cabin becomes a pressure cooker when three co-founders discover their disastrous breakup texts were sent to the same investor—who turns out to be their former landlord. As pitch panic collides with rent trauma, their startup's biggest negotiation becomes a comedy of ego, confusion, and survival.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: cramped, high-energy, dialogue-driven comedy with a claustrophobic office feel and sharp reaction shots. • The room should feel too small for their ambition—harsh white LED light, stale coffee energy, and visual clutter that amplifies ego clashes. • Pacing should be brisk and escalating, with each joke landing faster as the cabin gets more emotionally crowded. • Comedy comes from deadpan timing, overlapping interruptions, and precise reaction beats rather than broad physical slapstick. • Thematic depth: startup culture as performance, friendship as negotiation, and the absurd overlap between funding, rent, and dignity. • Final reveal should land like a punchline and a threat at the same time, freezing the room in a perfect comic standoff.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Kavya age: 29 look: CEO-like, polished but slightly frazzled, always trying to look in control; posture is upright and performative. dramatic_arc: Begins as the self-appointed visionary pushing grand language, then gets exposed as equally complicit in the breakup-text disaster. Ends forced into fake hospitality and damage control. • character: Nora age: 30 look: Practical, grounded, slightly tired from being the reality-check of the group; often seated with mug and calculator app energy. dramatic_arc: Starts as the blunt operations voice cutting through nonsense, then reveals she also participated in the text fiasco. Ends as the most visibly aware of the rent/funding trap. • character: Pallavi age: 27 look: Brand-forward, expressive, stylishly overconfident; uses the pitch deck like a prop and weapon. dramatic_arc: Begins as the witty marketing voice trying to elevate everything, then becomes the sharpest commentator on everyone else's chaos. Ends deadpan, fully aware the room is now a negotiation battlefield.
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:

A tiny shared office cabin built to feel compressed and overused. One desk anchors the room, with three mismatched chairs positioned awkwardly around it so blocking naturally creates tension. The whiteboard should show half-erased marker residue, layered scribbles, arrows, and ghosted notes from repeated rehearsals. Surfaces should carry stale coffee rings, paper clutter, and a lived-in startup mess. Harsh white LED fixtures should be visible or strongly motivated overhead, flattening faces and making the room feel unforgiving. Add spatial layers through a slightly messy desk drawer, scattered printouts, a pitch deck, a mug, and a calculator app on a phone. The cabin should feel like ambition has been squeezed into a rental unit with no privacy and no dignity.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **character:** Kavya | **costume:** Smart-casual founder look: structured top or blazer-like layer, neat enough to imply authority but not so polished that it feels corporate. | **continuity_notes:** Shirt should become slightly rumpled as the argument escalates; final door-open beat should show her straightening herself before faking confidence.
- **character:** Nora | **costume:** Practical office wear with a grounded, functional feel; should read as the one who works with tools, numbers, and reality. | **continuity_notes:** Keep her seated or half-seated early with mug and calculator app energy; by the end she should look more alert and defensive, ready for confrontation.
- **character:** Pallavi | **costume:** Stylish startup-marketing look with a slightly expressive edge; should feel like someone who cares about presentation and tone. | **continuity_notes:** She uses the pitch deck physically, so wardrobe should allow easy hand movement and expressive gestures; by the end she should still look composed enough to deliver deadpan lines.

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

- **prop:** Pitch deck | **details:** Physical deck that Pallavi flips and fans with; should look used, slightly bent at the corners, and central to the rehearsal.
- **prop:** Whiteboard | **details:** Small board with half-erased words, arrows, and later the written line about roles; must be visibly messy and repeatedly edited.
- **prop:** Sticky note | **details:** Handwritten note reading: 'Investor call 5 PM. Don't be weird. -A.'
- **prop:** Three printed pages | **details:** Same investor name, same meeting time, same subject line, each with a footer typo naming Kavya, Nora, and Pallavi separately.
- **prop:** Phone on desk | **details:** Must vibrate and play the recorded voicemail on speaker.
- **prop:** Mug | **details:** Nora's mug, used as a practical visual anchor for her grounded presence.
- **prop:** Calculator app on phone | **details:** Nora's practical tool, reinforcing the operations mindset.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and office-realistic, but progressively stressed. Add light forehead sheen and under-eye fatigue as the rehearsal intensifies. By the voicemail and knock, all three should look slightly overheated under the harsh LED. No heavy SFX required; the comedy comes from facial reactions, micro-expressions, and the visual contrast between their composed startup personas and their panic. Skin should react strongly to the flat white lighting, with minimal glam finish.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Kavya | **super_objective:** To be seen as the visionary leader and preserve authority. | **subtext:** If I sound confident enough, nobody will notice I'm improvising my way through this disaster.
- **character:** Nora | **super_objective:** To keep the company functional and prevent chaos from becoming expensive. | **subtext:** I'm the only adult here, and I'm tired of paying for everyone else's branding.
- **character:** Pallavi | **super_objective:** To control the narrative and make the startup sound smarter than it is. | **subtext:** If I can make the language sharp enough, maybe the mess will look intentional.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

KAVYA

"We are building the future of collaborative living."

NORA

"We help small teams share office space without losing their minds."

PALLAVI

"Roommates, Inc. turns chaos into community."

NORA

"We're three months from runway trouble."

PALLAVI

"The one who said our startup was 'noise.'"



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a tight, intimate comedy style with mostly medium close-ups, over-the-shoulders, and reaction-driven coverage. Favor 35mm and 50mm lenses for a natural but compressed cabin feel, with occasional wider framing to emphasize how absurdly small the room is. Camera movement should be minimal and motivated—small push-ins on punchlines, slight reframes during interruptions, and a locked-off or subtly drifting feel during the final reveal. The philosophy is to let performance and timing drive the humor while the frame quietly tightens like a trap.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

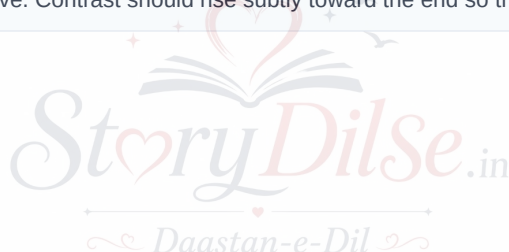
- 1) Base layer: harsh overhead white LED as the dominant source, intentionally flat and unforgiving to create a cramped office realism.
- 2) Accent layer: subtle bounce or soft side fill only when needed to preserve facial readability without losing the sterile cabin mood.
- 3) Escalation layer: maintain the same cold white environment, but let contrast deepen through blocking and shadow placement as the reveal approaches, so the room feels more claustrophobic without changing location or time.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build a dry office acoustic profile with slight room reflection, faint HVAC hum, and the occasional chair scrape, paper rustle, and marker squeak. Foley should emphasize the pitch deck flip, phone vibration, desk drawer pull, and the sticky note peel. The voicemail should sound clean and neutral, almost too polite, which makes the final line land harder. Keep ambient tone sparse so every interruption and pause feels sharp in the small cabin.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a cool, slightly desaturated LUT with strong white balance toward sterile LED tones. Skin should sit a little pale under the lighting, with coffee browns, paper whites, and muted office neutrals as the main palette. Reserve any warmth only for tiny human moments, but keep the overall image crisp, flat, and mildly oppressive. Contrast should rise subtly toward the end so the final freeze feels sharper and more comic.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Art department dress and cabin reset; place whiteboard, desk props, sticky note, and printouts	Art, Props
09:00 - 10:00	Light rig and camera blocking in the tight cabin	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
10:00 - 11:30	Shoot rehearsal banter, coffee argument, and whiteboard beats	Camera, Sound, Cast
11:30 - 12:30	Shoot sticky note discovery, drawer reveal, and printout confrontation	Camera, Art, Cast
12:30 - 13:30	Shoot voicemail playback, panic escalation, and landlord reveal	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:30 - 14:00	Shoot final door knock, fake smile, and cut to black	Camera, Cast, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Use one real small office cabin and dress it heavily instead of building a set. Keep lighting simple with practical LED overheads plus a small bounce for face control. Shoot almost everything in coverage-friendly master and close-up combinations to maximize edit flexibility. Use real office props, printed paper, and a phone speaker for the voicemail instead of any VFX. Let performance and timing carry the comedy so production value can stay lean. Reuse the same room angles with slight prop changes to make the space feel more dynamic without extra cost.

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

