

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE THREE WIDOWS

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A sunlit terrace becomes the battleground for three widows who set out to plan a respectable memorial, only to turn the afternoon into a hilarious contest of loneliness, gossip, and survival. What begins as a solemn gathering ends as a mischievous new club built on tea, temple calendars, and shared wit.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: warm, domestic, sunlit realism with a playful comic edge; the terrace should feel lived-in, intimate, and slightly theatrical. • Thematic depth: beneath the jokes, the film should reveal the emotional truth of aging, invisibility, and the need for companionship. • Pacing: brisk banter at the start, a measured pause in the middle for the silence beat, then escalating comic energy into the final laughter. • Performance style: grounded, sharp, and conversational; comedy should come from timing, status shifts, and deadpan reactions rather than broad exaggeration. • Spatial storytelling: use the terrace layout to show alliances, rivalries, and eventual unity through chair placement and blocking. • Final feeling: affectionate irreverence—sadness is acknowledged, but never allowed to dominate the room.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Lata age: 66 look: Bright but slightly mismatched sari, energetic presence, expressive face, carries the tea kettle with pride. dramatic_arc: Starts as the most openly playful and teasing voice in the group, then reveals her loneliness through the conversation, and finally becomes part of the shared comic sisterhood. • character: Rupa age: 64 look: Reading glasses, bangles, practical and nosy warmth, carries the temple calendar like an authority object. dramatic_arc: Begins as the organizer and rule-maker, tries to keep the memorial respectable, then gets pulled into the absurd competition and ends in laughter and belonging. • character: Chitra age: 68 look: Neat bun, shawl, composed posture, snack tin held like a weapon, dry and unimpressed expression. dramatic_arc: Enters as the sharpest skeptic, punctures everyone's pretensions, then becomes the most inventive voice in turning grief into a club of wit and companionship.
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 sunlit terrace with soft domestic wear: two plastic chairs, one cane stool, potted plants, and laundry lines swaying gently. The floor should show age and use—slight dust, faded paint, and practical household clutter kept minimal. The potted plants should create layered depth and a sense of neighborhood surveillance, as if the terrace is a private stage visible to the world. The laundry lines should move subtly in the breeze to add life and texture. The chairs must feel slightly mismatched, reinforcing the comic tension over seating hierarchy. The cane stool should read as the most contested and central object in the space. Keep the terrace open enough for blocking but intimate enough that every glance and chair shift feels like a social event.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Lata: Bright but slightly mismatched sari, suggesting cheerful self-expression and a refusal to be fully polished. Keep continuity consistent with a lively, slightly eccentric domestic look. • Rupa: Practical everyday clothing with reading glasses and bangles as signature details. Her look should feel organized, observant, and socially alert. • Chitra: Neat bun, shawl, and a composed, tidy silhouette. Her wardrobe should feel controlled and precise, matching her dry wit and unimpressed attitude.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Tea kettle visual_details: Held by Lata like a trophy; should feel warm, used, and central to the terrace ritual. • prop: Temple calendar visual_details: Carried by Rupa and opened like a sacred document; should be clearly readable as a practical planning object. • prop: Snack tin visual_details: Held by Chitra like a weapon; should look sturdy, domestic, and capable of becoming a comic symbol of emotional support. • prop: Two plastic chairs visual_details: Simple, slightly mismatched, and important for the seating rivalry. • prop: One cane stool visual_details: Placed centrally and treated as a contested seat, visually distinct from the plastic chairs. • prop: Reading glasses visual_details: Rupa's practical accessory, reinforcing her observant and managerial energy. • prop: Bangles visual_details: Rupa's bangles must audibly jingle and visually support the joke about background noise.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup natural, age-appropriate, and sunlit. Add light afternoon sheen on the skin to suggest warmth and domestic realism. Lata can have a slightly animated, lively face with subtle smile lines emphasized. Rupa should have a practical, alert look with glasses catching occasional light. Chitra should appear composed and dry, with minimal fuss. No heavy SFX is needed; the only performance-based effects are sweat, soft facial shine, and the physical reaction of bangles jingling, tea near-spill moments, and laughter lines becoming visible in the final beat.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Lata:** {'super_objective': 'To keep life lively and emotionally survivable through humor and social ritual.', 'subtext': 'If I can make this afternoon funny, I do not have to admit how lonely I feel.'}
- **Rupa:** {'super_objective': 'To impose order on chaos and prove that she still matters in the family and community.', 'subtext': 'If I can organize the memorial properly, I can still control something in my life.'}
- **Chitra:** {'super_objective': 'To protect herself with wit and maintain dignity through sharp observation.', 'subtext': 'If I laugh first, nobody gets to pity me.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

LATA
Bas rona-dhona kam rakhna. Meri photo ko bhi sharam aa jayegi.

CHITRA
Teri photo ko sharam? Teri sari dekh ke toh usko already shock lag gaya hoga.

RUPA
Mera beta toh har Sunday bolta hai, "Kal call karta hoon."

CHITRA
Aur kal kabhi aata hi nahi.

CHITRA
Meri bahu ne toh mujhe "background noise" declare kar diya hai.



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

Use intimate, observational framing with a comic stage-like clarity. Favor medium shots and close-ups for banter, with occasional wider compositions to emphasize the terrace as a social arena. Lenses should feel natural and human—around 35mm to 50mm for most dialogue, with tighter close-ups for punchlines and reaction beats. Camera movement should be minimal and motivated: gentle push-ins for escalating tension, static holds for deadpan lines, and a subtle widening at the final laughter to release the emotional pressure.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening: soft afternoon daylight with warm, even exposure and gentle shadow falloff to establish domestic calm.
- 2) Middle: maintain natural light but allow slightly stronger contrast on faces during the loneliness and competition beats so reactions read clearly.
- 3) Ending: keep the same sunlight but let the final laughter feel brighter and more open, with a subtle lift in warmth to suggest emotional release and renewed companionship.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Primary sound bed should be terrace ambience: faint neighborhood air, soft breeze, laundry lines moving, distant domestic life, and occasional bird presence. Foley should emphasize tea kettle handling, bangles jingling, snack tin opening and tapping, chair scrapes, and the kettle whistle at the end. Dialogue must remain crisp and intimate, with room tone supporting the sense of a private conversation in an open space.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm, naturalistic LUT with soft highlights and gentle contrast. Palette should lean toward sunlit creams, muted terracotta, sari colors, plant greens, and the metallic warmth of tea and bangles. Keep skin tones healthy and luminous. The grade should preserve the domestic softness while allowing the comedy to pop through clean visual clarity.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, prop placement, and terrace continuity check	Art, Props, Costume
09:30 - 10:30	Block actors and rehearse chair/stool geography	Director, Cast, Assistant Director
10:30 - 11:30	Rig soft daylight control and bounce setup	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
11:30 - 13:30	Shoot opening banter and memorial planning beats	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:30 - 14:15	Shoot loneliness competition and silence beat coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:15 - 15:00	Shoot final laughter, chair pull-in, and kettle whistle ending	Camera, Sound, Cast, Art

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real terrace location with existing plants and laundry lines to avoid heavy art spend. Keep the entire film in natural daylight to eliminate complex lighting setups. Limit props to three hero objects: kettle, calendar, and snack tin. Shoot coverage efficiently by staging the scene in a triangle so all three actors can play off each other without constant resets. Use practical wardrobe from the actors' own closets with only continuity checks for sari, shawl, glasses, and bangles. Capture the final whistle with a simple off-camera kettle or sound effect if needed. Prioritize performance and timing over production complexity.

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

