

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE APOLOGY DRAFT

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Teen sisters ek simple apology message likhne baithti hain, lekin har line par unki sibling politics, ego aur 'maturity' ki alag definitions takraati rehti hain. Jab unhe pata chalta hai ki Maa ne pehle hi unke liye apology draft likh diya tha, unka self-made diplomatic battle ek hilarious family mirror ban jaata hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Pure comedy with a grounded family-realism base: jokes should land from timing, overlap, and character ego, not from broad slapstick. • Dining table ko battlefield ki tarah stage karein—every prop becomes a negotiation tool, every pause becomes a punchline. • Visual tone half-serious, half-dramatic: warm kitchen spill and ceiling-fan light create a mock-epic 'war room' feel. • Pacing should tighten progressively: from polite drafting, to verbal sparring, to the final reveal and release laughter. • Performance style should be crisp, fast, and reactive; each sister must feel like she is always one sentence away from winning the room. • The emotional undercurrent is family love disguised as competition; the ending should feel like a soft landing, not a moral lecture.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Anita age: 43 look: Older sister energy, composed posture, practical face, controlled expressions, seated like the default decision-maker. dramatic_arc: Starts as the self-appointed organizer and final authority, but is gradually exposed as equally invested in control and image. Ends in laughter when she realizes the sisters were editing a message their mother had already emotionally solved. • character: Bina age: 40 look: Measured, observant, slightly dry wit, often physically engaged with the list or cup, giving her a calm-but-sharp presence. dramatic_arc: Begins as the practical mediator who wants warmth and truth, but keeps escalating the debate with precise objections. Her arc lands in the reveal that her 'practicality' was also part of the same ego game. • character: Chhaya age: 36 look: Restless, expressive, pen in hand, quick eye-rolls and elegant-but-overcomplicated phrasing, the most performative of the three. dramatic_arc: Starts as the creative over-editor who wants the apology to sound elevated and mature. She becomes the clearest example of how style can overtake sincerity, then collapses into laughter at the mother's first draft.
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:

Family dining area should feel lived-in and slightly cluttered, with a central rectangular dining table as the main performance arena. Table surface must hold three cups, a few plates, a half-eaten snack bowl, and the handwritten list titled 'Apology Draft for Maa.' The table should have enough negative space for paper movement and hand gestures, but enough clutter to feel like a real family meal interrupted by a crisis. Background layers: kitchen doorway with warm yellow spill, visible but not distracting; ceiling fan overhead with practical light source; chairs slightly mismatched or casually placed to suggest everyday domestic use. Textures should be tactile—wood grain, ceramic cups, paper edges, pen marks, and a slightly worn tablecloth or polished tabletop depending on the home style. The folded paper reveal should be placed near the table edge, unnoticed until the final beat.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Anita:** Neat, structured homewear with a slightly authoritative silhouette; colors should be muted and practical. Continuity note: she remains composed throughout, so wardrobe should stay clean and minimally disturbed.
- **Bina:** Comfortable but tidy family attire, with a calm, grounded palette. Continuity note: she may casually handle the cup or list, so sleeves and hands should remain practical for prop interaction.
- **Chhaya:** Slightly more expressive homewear, with a relaxed but stylish feel that matches her restless energy. Continuity note: pen handling should be easy; avoid bulky sleeves that interfere with gesturing and writing.

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

- Handwritten list titled exactly: 'Apology Draft for Maa'
- Three cups on the dining table
- A few plates, slightly used
- Half-eaten snack bowl
- Pen used by Chhaya and later by the others
- Folded paper near the table edge with neat handwriting: 'For girls. Read before sending.'
- Inner apology draft paper written by mother
- Tabletop space for visible line-by-line writing and crossing/adding text

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Natural family-evening makeup with slight under-eye realism and soft domestic warmth. No heavy SFX required. Add subtle skin sheen from warm room light and mild evening fatigue. As the argument escalates, allow tiny signs of stress: slight forehead tension, lip compression, and animated facial flushing from comedic frustration. Final reveal should read clearly under warm light, so avoid overly matte skin that kills the domestic glow.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Anita:** {'super_objective': 'To keep the family image controlled and correct.', 'subtext': 'If I can structure this apology, I can structure the family chaos too.'}
- **Bina:** {'super_objective': 'To make the apology sound honest, balanced, and sensible.', 'subtext': 'I'm the only one who understands what this message should really feel like.'}
- **Chhaya:** {'super_objective': 'To elevate the apology into something elegant and mature.', 'subtext': 'If I phrase it better, I'll prove I'm the most thoughtful one here.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

ANITA

"Maa, aaj function mein humse galti ho gayi. We are sorry."

BINA

"Maa, hum sab se galti ho gayi, aur humein sach mein bura laga."

CHHAYA

"Maa, aaj ke function mein hum emotionally present the, par execution mein gap reh gaya."

ANITA

"We are sorry."

BINA

"We regret the confusion."



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, dialogue-driven coverage with a restrained comedic rhythm. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for natural perspective, with occasional tighter 85mm close-ups for punchline reactions and micro-expressions. Camera should mostly stay at table height or slightly above eye level to preserve the 'meeting room' feel. Movement philosophy: minimal but reactive—small push-ins on escalating arguments, subtle reframes on interruptions, and a gentle reveal move for the folded note. Keep compositions triangular to emphasize sibling rivalry and shifting alliances.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Base layer: practical ceiling fan light as the main overhead source, creating a slightly flat but believable family-room look.
- 2) Warm fill layer: kitchen spill as a soft amber side/back source to separate faces and create cozy contrast against the argument.
- 3) Reveal layer: slightly brighter warm accent on the folded note and final laughter beat, so the mother's draft becomes visually 'discovered' as the emotional center. Maintain soft shadows and avoid over-stylization; the comedy should feel domestic and real.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Ceiling fan hum should be present as a constant domestic texture. Add subtle plate clinks, cup movement, paper rustle, pen taps, and chair shifts to support the negotiation energy. The kitchen should contribute a warm ambient room tone, with faint off-screen household presence but no visible intrusion. The final reveal benefits from a tiny pause in room noise before the laughter breaks out, making the beat land cleanly.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Warm domestic palette with amber highlights from the kitchen and neutral-to-soft shadows under the ceiling fan light. Keep skin tones natural and slightly golden. Contrast should be gentle, not dramatic; the humor comes from the writing and performances, not from harsh visual stylization. A mild warm LUT with restrained saturation will preserve the cozy family atmosphere and make the final note feel emotionally tender.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, table reset, prop placement, note continuity check	Art, Props
09:00 - 10:00	Lighting rig and practical ceiling fan light test	Gaffer, Camera, Grip
10:00 - 10:30	Wardrobe check, hair/makeup touch-up, blocking rehearsal	Wardrobe, Makeup, Director
10:30 - 12:30	Dialogue coverage for drafting argument and line-by-line escalation	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:30 - 13:15	Folded note reveal and reaction coverage	Camera, Art, Cast
13:15 - 13:45	Final laughter beat, insert shots, cleanup continuity	Camera, Sound, Art

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot entirely in one real dining room with practical kitchen spill instead of building a set. Use one overhead practical and one warm bounce source to keep the look cinematic but cheap. Keep the table cluttered with real household props so art direction feels rich without custom fabrication. Capture most comedy through performance and editing rather than extra camera moves. Use one master, two over-the-shoulders, and a few inserts for the note and handwriting. The folded paper reveal can be made from simple printed or handwritten paper with careful prop continuity. Record clean room tone and foley on location to avoid expensive sound fixes.

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

