

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

AUNTIE’S TIME MACHINE

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Sci-Fi/High-Concept | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE:

A cluttered garage becomes the battleground for a family’s buried truths when Auntie Jaya’s homemade “time machine” starts sending impossible messages from the future. As one night forces Sana to confront her fear of honesty and Tia to stop hiding behind her camera, the three women must choose between preserving a machine or preserving their bond.

DIRECTOR’S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT:

- Ground the sci-fi in a cramped, tactile, low-budget garage so the emotional stakes feel bigger than the technology.
- Keep the tone playful at first, then let the humor curdle into unease, confession, and finally catharsis.
- Use one hanging bulb and one desk lamp as the visual spine: practical, motivated, and increasingly unstable as the truth emerges.
- Treat the machine as a character—scrap-built, imperfect, and emotionally charged rather than sleek or futuristic.
- Pace the scene like a pressure cooker: banter, glitch, revelation, confession, sacrifice, blackout.
- Prioritize faces, hands, and phone screens to make the “future messages” feel intimate and invasive.
- End on warmth and relief, not spectacle; the real transformation is relational, not technological.

CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS:

- **character:** Auntie Jaya | **age:** 57 | **look:** Practical kurta-pajama, grease on hands, sharp eyes, grounded body language, a maker’s confidence with a mischievous streak. | **dramatic_arc:** She begins as the comic inventor with total confidence, then reveals emotional depth and regret, and finally becomes the steady center who helps the others choose truth over denial.
- **character:** Sana | **age:** 31 | **look:** Neat shirt, analytical posture, cross-armed, laptop-bag energy, controlled and precise, visibly shaken when logic fails. | **dramatic_arc:** She starts as the skeptic who dismisses the machine, then gets cornered by the messages and her own guilt, and ends by making the brave choice to preserve truth and admit she is tired of hiding.
- **character:** Tia | **age:** 19 | **look:** Streetwear, phone always on, expressive face, quick reactions, social-media-native energy that masks vulnerability. | **dramatic_arc:** She begins as the amused recorder of family chaos, then becomes the witness to something real, and finally matures by stopping the recording and choosing presence over performance.

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:

Build a cramped garage/storage room with low ceiling pressure and visible clutter density. The space should feel lived-in, not dressed: stacked old suitcases, loose wires, circuit boards, scrap appliances, and random storage items layered into the background. The homemade machine must sit center-frame as a Frankenstein object made from mixer, radio, toaster, and fan parts, with exposed screws, taped joints, mismatched metal, and visible wiring. Use a single hanging bulb overhead and a desk lamp on the work surface to create two practical pools of light, leaving the corners in shadow. Add texture through dusty concrete, scuffed floor, oil stains, cardboard, and worn plastic. The suitcases should feel old and functional, with one lid able to pop open on cue. Keep the space physically tight so the actors must navigate around the machine and each other, reinforcing emotional claustrophobia.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **character:** Auntie Jaya | **costume:** Practical kurta-pajama in muted, work-friendly tones; sleeves rolled or easy to move in; grease marks acceptable and desirable. | **continuity_notes:** Hands should remain visibly greasy throughout; wardrobe should support crouching, reaching, and tapping the machine without looking polished.
- **character:** Sana | **costume:** Neat shirt with a clean, structured silhouette; professional but casual enough for a family visit; laptop bag present. | **continuity_notes:** Her look should stay controlled at first, then subtly loosen as the scene escalates; maintain a contrast with the garage clutter.
- **character:** Tia | **costume:** Streetwear with a youthful, camera-ready edge; comfortable enough for movement; phone always in hand. | **continuity_notes:** Wardrobe should support her role as the recorder of events; keep her silhouette modern and energetic without distracting patterns.

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

- **prop:** Homemade machine | **details:** Scrap-built Frankenstein device combining mixer, radio, toaster, and fan elements; exposed circuit board, loose wire, side panel, visible screws, improvised core.
- **prop:** Single hanging bulb | **details:** Practical overhead bulb that flickers and flares during the spark moment.
- **prop:** Desk lamp | **details:** Yellow cone of light on the work surface, used as the secondary motivated source.
- **prop:** Old suitcases | **details:** Two worn suitcases; one contains calibration notes, one lid must pop open by itself during the spark.
- **prop:** Phones | **details:** Three phones with visible incoming unknown-number messages; Tia's phone must be used for recording.
- **prop:** Circuit board | **details:** Market-purchased-looking board that Sana inspects closely.
- **prop:** Loose wire | **details:** Must be physically reachable and touchable by Tia to trigger the spark.
- **prop:** Master switch | **details:** Single switch Jaya flips for the final activation/shutdown beat.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and character-based. Jaya needs grease smudges on hands and slight under-eye texture from working late. Sana should begin clean and composed, then show subtle stress: paler face after the messages, tension around eyes and mouth, slight shine from the warm practical lights. Tia should look youthful and alert, with increasing emotional strain visible in her eyes and grip on the phone. For the spark moment, add a brief lighting reaction on faces rather than heavy VFX makeup. By the blackout, allow a faint emotional flush and tear sheen on Tia and Sana, while Jaya carries quiet, controlled emotion.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Auntie Jaya:** {'super_objective': 'To protect the family by forcing them to face what they have been avoiding.', 'subtext': 'I may joke, but I know this is serious. I built this from regret, not just scrap.'}
- **Sana:** {'super_objective': 'To maintain control through logic, proof, and emotional distance.', 'subtext': 'If I can explain it, I don't have to feel it. But the truth is already inside me.'}
- **Tia:** {'super_objective': 'To capture everything and stay safely on the outside of family conflict.', 'subtext': 'If I keep recording, I don't have to fully participate. But now I'm being asked to choose.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

TIA

((phone ki taraf))

Okay guys, live nahi, but almost live. Meri auntie ne garage mein Time Machine bana di hai.

SANA

Auntie, yeh time machine nahi hai. Yeh electrical hazard hai.

JAYA

Arre wah. Engineer madam ne diagnosis de diya bina patient dekhe.

SANA

Aapka blood pressure hoga.

SANA

What is this machine actually doing?



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

Use intimate, handheld or lightly stabilized coverage that stays close to faces, hands, and the machine. Favor 35mm and 50mm equivalents for natural perspective in the cramped garage, with occasional wider framing to reveal the cluttered environment and the trio's spatial tension. Push in slowly during the message reveals and confession beats; let the camera become more still as the emotional truth lands. Use inserts for phone screens, circuit board, loose wire, suitcase lid, and master switch. The movement philosophy should be observational at first, then increasingly reactive as the machine glitches and the family dynamic shifts.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Opening practicals only — hanging bulb overhead and desk lamp as warm, localized sources with deep shadows in the room edges.
Tier 2: Spark/glitch escalation — bulb flicker, brief flare, and motivated spill from the machine to create unstable highlights on faces and metal surfaces.
Tier 3: Final blackout and aftermath — full blackout except for a tiny emergency glow from Tia's phone screen, allowing emotional faces to emerge from darkness.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Start with room tone, faint electrical buzz, distant garage ambience, and the soft mechanical clinks of scrap parts. Build in the hum of the machine, bulb flicker crackle, phone vibration alerts, and the suitcase lid pop as key sonic punctuation. The spark should feel loud but not explosive—more like a stressed electrical surge. After blackout, drop into near-silence with only a suitcase latch click and the tiny phone-screen glow ambience. Keep the acoustic profile dry, intimate, and enclosed.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a warm, slightly dirty LUT with amber practicals and muted shadows. The palette should lean toward yellows, browns, steel grays, and desaturated skin tones, with brief white-blue highlights during the spark and message moments. Preserve texture in the clutter and avoid glossy sci-fi treatment. The final blackout should hold deep blacks while protecting the small glow on faces.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, prop placement, and continuity check	Art, Props, Wardrobe
09:00 - 10:30	Rig hanging bulb, desk lamp, and practical flicker control	G&E;, Camera
10:30 - 11:30	Rehearse blocking around machine, suitcases, and phone inserts	Director, Cast, Camera
11:30 - 13:00	Shoot dialogue banter and machine inspection coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:00 - 14:00	Shoot spark moment, phone vibrations, suitcase lid pop, and insert shots	Camera, SFX, Sound
14:00 - 15:00	Shoot confession, final phone-in-core beat, switch flip, blackout, and ending	Camera, Cast, G&E;

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real garage or storage room and dress it densely instead of building a set. Make the machine from thrift-store appliances, cardboard, scrap metal, and visible wiring, but keep it safe and lightweight. Rely on practical lights and controlled flicker rather than heavy VFX. Shoot phone messages as screen inserts with simple UI overlays in post. Use sound design to sell the spark and hum. Keep coverage efficient: master, two-shots, close-ups, and inserts. Let performance carry the sci-fi concept so the production stays micro-budget and emotionally strong.

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

