

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE SONG THEY FORGOT

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Emotional Drama | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek shaam ke music room mein teen generations ek bhoola hua gaana dhoondhti hain, aur us dhun ke saath ek dabaa hua family truth bhi saamne aa jaata hai. Jo song pehle sirf yaad aur dard tha, woh aakhir mein sach, maafi aur pehchaan ka zariya ban jaata hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: warm, intimate, memory-like realism with soft evening light, dust, and lived-in textures. • Emotional pacing: slow-burn opening, rising tension through dialogue, then a restrained but powerful catharsis in the final song. • Thematic depth: unfinished songs mirror unfinished relationships; silence is treated as a dramatic force, not empty space. • Camera language: observational at first, then progressively closer and more intimate as the truth surfaces. • Performance focus: micro-expressions, pauses, and breath are as important as dialogue. • Spatial storytelling: the harmonium, cassette player, songbooks, and curtain light all function as emotional anchors.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Kamala age: 67 look: Plain sari, white-bordered or simple traditional drape, seated posture that still carries old-stage dignity, eyes moist and searching. dramatic_arc: Begins as a quiet, enigmatic elder asking to hear one song; reveals a buried past of loss and silence; ends in emotional release as her truth is finally heard and shared. • character: Anita age: 44 look: Practical, restrained, sheet music in hand, grounded teacher-like presence, minimal ornamentation, controlled body language. dramatic_arc: Starts defensive and dismissive, treating music as discipline; is forced to confront a hidden family wound; ends with reluctant tenderness and a willingness to rebuild the song and the relationship. • character: Naina age: 20 look: College clothes, shy and observant, soft presence, open face, instinctive musicality. dramatic_arc: Enters as the quiet listener; becomes the bridge between generations; discovers the emotional truth behind the song and helps transform it from secret to memory.
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 small music room or living room that feels preserved by time. The harmonium sits near a table as the emotional center, with scattered songbooks layered across surfaces to suggest unfinished work and repeated attempts. A thanda tea cup on the corner table adds domestic stillness. The cassette player on a shelf should look old, dusty, and slightly neglected, with visible wear on buttons and casing. Curtains must be semi-sheer, allowing soft evening light to pass through in visible shafts, creating a tender haze. Textures should include worn wood, faded paper, dust on instrument surfaces, and fabric that catches the light gently. The room should feel compact enough for emotional pressure to build, with clear sightlines between the three women so every reaction lands.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

• **character:** Kamala | **costume:** Plain sari with a simple, dignified drape; no flashy embellishment; fabric should feel slightly aged but cared for. | **continuity_notes:** Must remain consistent through the scene; the sari should support her elder, stage-memory presence without distracting from her face.

• **character:** Anita | **costume:** Work-appropriate, restrained clothing suitable for a music teacher; practical silhouette, minimal styling, sheet-music-ready presence. | **continuity_notes:** Should read as controlled and professional; no costume change needed, but body language and handling of sheet music should stay consistent.

• **character:** Naina | **costume:** College clothes, casual and age-appropriate, soft and unforced styling that suggests youth and openness. | **continuity_notes:** Keep her look simple and natural so her role as the emotional bridge feels believable and unforced.

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

• **prop:** Harmonium | **details:** Old, slightly dusty, physically central, with visible bellows action and a lived-in finish.

• **prop:** Songbooks | **details:** Scattered, worn, and aged pages; one book must be open to a line Kamala points at.

• **prop:** Sheet music bundle | **details:** Held by Anita; should look organized but slightly tense in her grip.

• **prop:** Tea cup | **details:** Small cup on the table corner, visibly cold and forgotten.

• **prop:** Cassette player | **details:** Old, dusty shelf item with a functional cassette slot; should feel like a preserved memory object.

• **prop:** Cassette | **details:** Old cassette with faded label reading 'Raat Ka Geet'; must be visually legible and emotionally significant.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and age-appropriate. Kamala should have subtle under-eye softness, slight moisture in the eyes, and a lived-in skin texture that catches warm light. Anita should appear composed but gradually show emotional strain: slight tension around the mouth, eyes reddening as the truth lands, and a controlled face that starts to crack. Naina should remain fresh and minimal, with a clean youthful look that can absorb the room's emotional shift. For all three, add gentle sweat or skin sheen only if needed under warm lighting; no heavy SFX. Tears should be performance-led, with practical tear continuity for the climax.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Kamala | **super_objective:** To be heard fully before time runs out. | **subtext:** This song is not just music; it is the only surviving proof of a lost child and a life of silence.
- **character:** Anita | **super_objective:** To protect herself from emotional chaos while still trying to understand her mother. | **subtext:** If I keep things practical, I won't have to face the pain of what was hidden from me.
- **character:** Naina | **super_objective:** To understand the truth and hold the family together without taking sides. | **subtext:** I may be the youngest, but I can become the safe space where this truth can finally be spoken.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

ANITA Maa, aaj phir kya naya experiment hai?
KAMALA Aaj bas ek gaana sunna hai mujhe. Tum dono ke saath.
ANITA Maa. Main teacher hoon. Emotion class mein chalta hai, ghar mein nahi.
KAMALA Nahi. Tum log incomplete ho gaye ho.
KAMALA ((soft)) Kyuki phir tum bhi toot jaati. Aur main ek maa aur tootne nahi de sakti thi.



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

Use intimate 35mm and 50mm coverage for most dialogue, with occasional 85mm close-ups for emotional fractures and eye-line pressure. Start with a wider observational frame to establish the room and the three-body geometry, then progressively tighten as the truth emerges. Favor gentle handheld or subtle locked-off drift rather than flashy movement, so the audience feels like a quiet witness. Keep compositions layered through foreground songbooks, harmonium edges, and curtain lines to reinforce emotional separation and eventual connection.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Opening warmth — soft evening key through curtains, low-contrast fill, dust visible in the air, amber-toned practical feel.

Tier 2: Truth reveal — slightly deeper shadows, reduced fill, more sculpted faces, allowing the room to feel heavier and more private.

Tier 3: Climax and release — maintain warm source but lift facial visibility subtly, letting the final song feel emotionally open while preserving the memory-like glow.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Room tone should be intimate and dry, with faint cloth movement, harmonium bellows, paper rustle, and cassette player mechanical clicks. The curtain movement and the soft hum of the room should be audible in quiet moments. The harmonium should have a slightly imperfect, aged acoustic profile. The cassette playback should introduce gentle crackle and low-fi texture. Silence must be treated as a dramatic sound element, especially after the reveal and before the final song.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a warm, soft LUT with amber highlights, muted browns, and gentle skin tones. Preserve dust and curtain light as visual texture. Keep shadows slightly cool or neutral so the warmth feels earned rather than over-sweet. The palette should lean toward sepia-memory without becoming nostalgic to the point of artificiality.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, harmonium placement, songbooks, cassette player, tea cup continuity	Art, Props
09:30 - 11:00	Lighting rig through curtains, practicals, dust test, camera blocking	Camera, G&E;, Art
11:00 - 12:30	Rehearsal of dialogue beats and emotional turns, harmonium/cassette action blocking	Director, Cast, Sound
12:30 - 14:00	Shoot opening setup and first dialogue exchange	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:00 - 15:30	Shoot reveal scene with cassette, truth dialogue, reaction close-ups	Camera, Sound, Cast
15:30 - 17:00	Shoot final song, handhold moment, closing silence, curtain movement	Camera, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Use one real location dressed carefully to feel layered and lived-in. Rely on natural evening light augmented with a single soft source through curtains. Keep props minimal but specific: the cassette label and dusty harmonium do most of the storytelling. Shoot coverage efficiently by grouping emotional beats in the same axis. Use practical room tone and simple Foley instead of expensive sound design. Let performances carry the production value; this story works best when the camera stays close and patient.

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

