

THILAKANATHAN STUDIOS

Guide To Success

Short Film Screenplay

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Home

The morning sun peers through the window.

The Clock on the bedside table ticks to 6:30am and the alarm goes off.

Akesh is lying on the bed ignoring the alarm for a few seconds before slowly bringing out a giant sledgehammer from his bed.

With his eyes closed, he attempts to smash the clock and misses, instead smashing a nearby piggy bank.

He loses control of the sledgehammer and it props onto the floor.

He continues to lie there while the alarm still goes off.

[CREDITS]

Akesh gets ready to leave the house. Akesh's mom kisses Vetri (the brother) on the cheek and walks past Akesh irritated and looking at her watch indicating he's late.

Akesh and Vetri are looking at the mirror before leaving. Akesh and Vetri are on the left and right sides of the camera, respectively. The trophy cabinet is in the middle displaying mostly Vetri's awards. The one award of Akesh is some painting award from 1st grade.

Akesh runs as fast as he can to Uni while his brother leaves using his new Porsche-styled car.

Akesh passes through a "Guide to Success" ad on the street pole and pays some notice. The camera pans from Akesh to the ad and stays on it.

A police man in a police vehicle watches Akesh suspiciously and notes the time on his watch. His face is covered.

Uni

The lecturer is writing things on the board. It's clear from the board the words "No assaulting in class, No sleeping in class, No yelling in class, or you will FAIL".

Akesh looks bored and eventually sleeps.

The lecturer throws a book at his face and he falls over backwards. The class start to laugh at him and point fingers at him.

The lecturer points on the board indicating the "No sleeping in class" while the "No assaulting in class" is more dominant and takes up most of the screen.

The lecturer kicks Akesh out.

On his way home, he notices the police vehicle and is suspicious. The police vehicle then makes its way out.

Home

Akesh returns home and sees his brother giving money to the mom and dad while showing off his new award. The mom and dad show love and affection to him. Akesh looks at him jealously and walks off.

Akesh (in his room) kicks his bed as hard as he can and hurts his ankle.

After taking some time, Akesh spends the whole evening and night studying hard. Akesh's father comes in and hugs him.

Uni – Exam Day

The board displays "FINAL EXAM TODAY!"

Everyone sits for their exams in a tutorial room.

Rules are on the board. The professor looks disinterested but strict.

The exam starts.

Akesh looks confused and lost. So confused that the exam is finished by the time he writes anything useful. The school bell rings.

The student behind Akesh continues to write while the teacher stands next to him. The teacher, after staring at the student for a while, picks up the paper rips it up and throws it out the classroom window.

The camera focuses on Akesh realising he's probably failed another exam.

Wedding place

Wedding bells fly as Vetri is married. The parents look happy and emotional.

Akesh sits bored and unimpressed as Vetri is married off to a lady.

Visitors look at Vetri in envy while looking at Akesh in contempt.

Akesh sits down. Akesh's grandpa pastes some cream on his face while Akesh doesn't budge. The old man walks away.

Akesh's father looks at Akesh in a disappointing but surprised way as he answers a phone call.

FADE OUT.

Uni Headmaster Office

The three headmasters look unimpressed and almost judgmental.

Akesh and his father look back in confusion.

The headmaster places a sheet in front of Akesh and his father. The sheet reads "FAIL".

Akesh is stunned and then becomes sad and confused. (Sad, reflective music here).

Akesh's father is surprised.

Akesh storms out of the office and runs out of the Uni throwing everything and anything in the bin. He is REALLY frustrated.

Streets

Akesh cries on the streets as it rains. As he does, he notices the "Guide to Success" ad on the street pole. He notices the large price "\$100 per lesson for 4 lessons". The police vehicle drives by with the man staring at him.

Home

Desperate, he smashes open his already smashed piggy bank with the sledge hammer and musters up \$100. He points the \$100 up in the air while remaining in the silhouette of his room.

GTS

Akesh nervously finds a place to sit and looks around. Other nervous and unconfident looking students sit around and wait in anticipation.

“Guide To Sucess” is spelt incorrectly on the board.

The teacher comes into the room in a creepy but funny manner. He dances and throws money in the air as he does so. He also goes up towards a student and krumps.

Students look on in confusion.

The teacher then backs up and slides across his table and falls over backwards and immediately gets up.

The students all look confused.

The teacher writes quickly on the board “How to achieve Sucesfulness” while looking a bit confused. He sticks a couple of photos of very powerful people such as Rajnikanth and MJ.

Then he shows photos of his own before and after. He shows photos of him swimming in a pool of money. Another photo of him holding an umbrella with money on top. Another photo shows him with millions of fans wanting the autograph of some other celebrity (it is obvious he is photoshopped in). Importantly, it shows him and his sibling jealous as his own trophy cabinet expands.

Akesh looks at this and becomes impressed. The camera zooms in and the sound fades out to a blur as Akesh smiles.

The teacher explains the rules. After each lesson, students must carry out a dare in order to pass the course. This week’s dare: Be a leader not a follower! (Uprising and uplifting music with deep drums here!)

Coffee Shop

Akesh attempts to cut in line of a long queue. A long shot.

The lady behind immediately grabs him, spins him round and slaps him hard. Akesh tumbles over and knocks over a table where people are sitting.

GTS

In this week’s dare, students must: Be an entertainer!

Streets

Akesh dances on the streets. People put money in.

Random robbers arrive and take all the money Akesh has earned and run away swiftly.

GTS

This week’s dare, students must: Be more commanding!

Streets

Akesh walks up to a random mob and slaps his hat off.

The mob pause for a while, nod their head slowly showing he is about to get punched and then assault him comedically.

A policeman is shown eating while in the background Akesh is being assaulted.

The policeman walks up to the mob. Akesh looks relieved.

The policeman then walks past the mob and to the bin and then walks away (through the mob again).

The mob continue to comedically assault Akesh.

Coffee Shop

Akesh goes up to the counter and demands coffee threateningly.

The cashier lady splays the coffee onto his face.

Akesh screams in pain and trips over the coffee on the floor.

The same old lady from the earlier scene spins him round, slaps him hard and makes him fall head first into a bin.

GTS

This week's dare, students must: Do something out of the ordinary!

Car Interior

Unlicensed vehicle shown.

Akesh sees a red light.

Akesh speeds through, almost crashing with another car perpendicular to him.

Akesh crashes the car onto the street pole. The "Guide to Success" flyer lands on the car.

Akesh comes out feeling a bit dizzy.

The mob surround him. The mob sway their head mockingly from side to side with their eyes wide open. They reach out and grab him. Akesh looks like he knows what's going to happen next.

The mob comedically assault him without the camera focusing on the assault.

Akesh's grandpa appears. Akesh is relieved.

He ignores Akesh. The mob and Akesh just stare at his grandpa. The grandpa attempts to walk past but feels he is blocked by the car. Instead, he slowly walks back and off screen.

The mob still stares for a while and then continue assaulting Akesh.

Bridge

Akesh spots a bike near a bridge.

He runs over and throws the bike over the bridge.

Immediately, the bike owner runs over and throws Akesh over the bridge.

Akesh breathing hard, reflects angrily and gets even angrier.

Home

As Akesh enters home, police are seen arresting Vetri and taking him to the police van. Akesh is confused.

As Vetri enters the police car, Akesh notices Vetri's wife and the GTS professor in the car.

Akesh thinks for a while and looks at his parents who look depressed and in vain.

The police staring at Akesh for a while, approaches him with contact details of a professional runners association and an invitation to compete in the race-a-thon.

Flashback –

The times when the police was staring at Akesh as he ran as fast as he could to Uni. He was measuring the running speed of Akesh. The police would then go hunting for Vetri.

They find Vetri, the wife and the GTS professor, part of a gang, running an illegal business called 'Guide To Success'.

Race-a-thon

2 years later, Akesh looks nervously. A close-up of Akesh's face sums up his feelings. A gun shot is heard.

Akesh runs as fast as he could, looking more fit and built. Other competitors try to keep up but he is too fast for them. Akesh wins the race-a-thon.

Akesh receives his certificate.

Akesh's parents hug him and show him affection.

Vetri, on the other hand, with the GTS professor and girl, serve drinks and food to visitors.

Akesh gives a smile and the camera circles out to an end.

[END CREDITS]