



SRINIBARAN

শ্রীনিবারণ

Digital Stage Blocking, Movement & Spatial Design Studio

User Manual

Version 1.0 · October 2026

In tribute to the enduring theatrical legacy of
Arun Sarma & Kulada Kumar Bhattacharjee

Created by Dr Mrinal Jyoti Goswami on behalf of AANK_A Creative Line, Assam, India
<https://aank.org/digital-tools/srinibaran/>



Contents

This manual explains how to plan stage blocking, movement and space with SRINIBARAN 1.0. The screens shown are from the English interface with the demo production; the Assamese edition shows the Assamese interface.

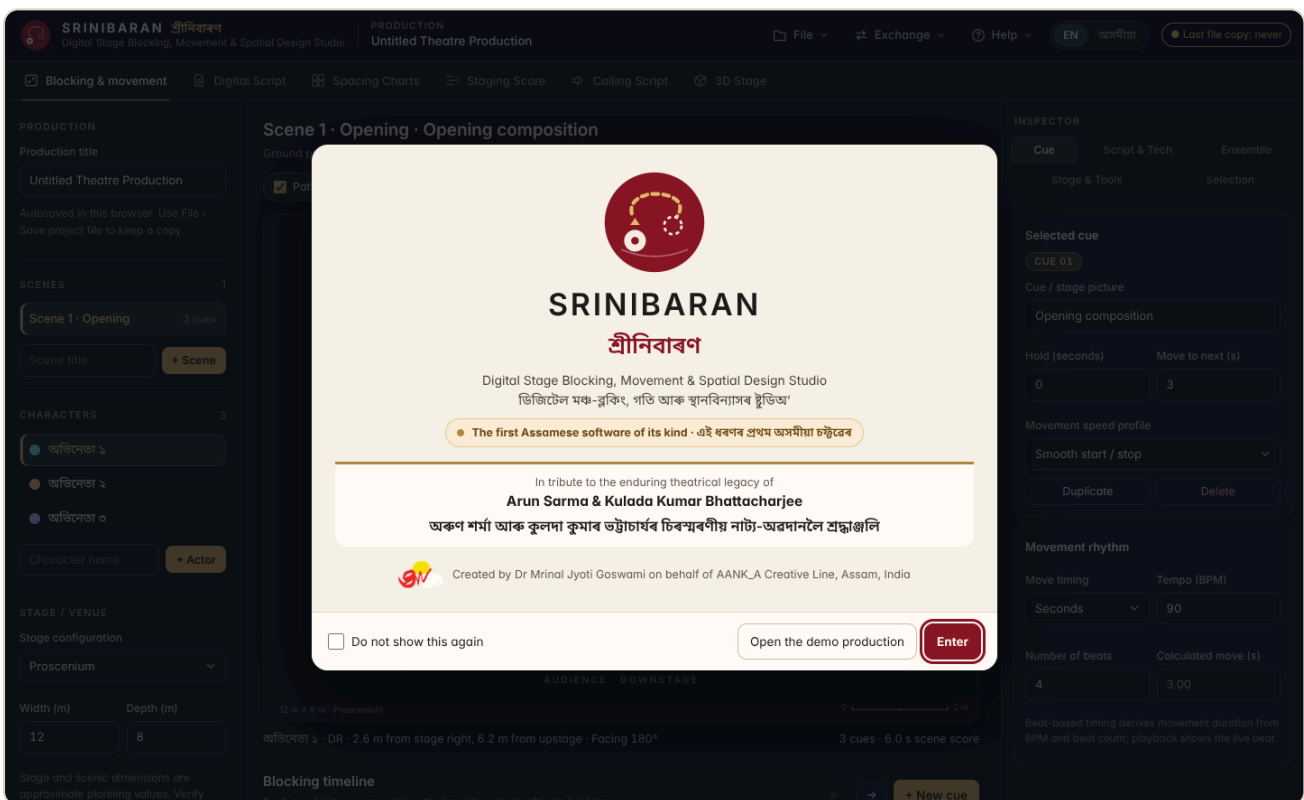
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1 What SRINIBARAN does

SRINIBARAN (শ্রীনিবারণ) is a rehearsal studio for stage blocking, movement and spatial design. A director, assistant director or stage manager records where every performer stands and how they move from one stage picture to the next, links those pictures to the script, and prints the paperwork a rehearsal room needs.

- A true-scale ground plan for eight kinds of stage, from proscenium to Bhaona in the Namghar.
- Blocking cue by cue, with movement paths, entrances and exits, groups and ensemble rotation.
- A Digital Script linked to the blocking, with Word and PDF import in Assamese or English.
- Spacing Charts, a Staging Score and a Calling Script for printing.
- A real 3D stage built from the same plan, with five camera views and playback.
- Work in Assamese or English; send work to XUDHAKANTHA and the other AANK studios.

SRINIBARAN works offline and keeps your work on your own device. How to open and install it is explained in the separate Installation Guide.



The welcome screen

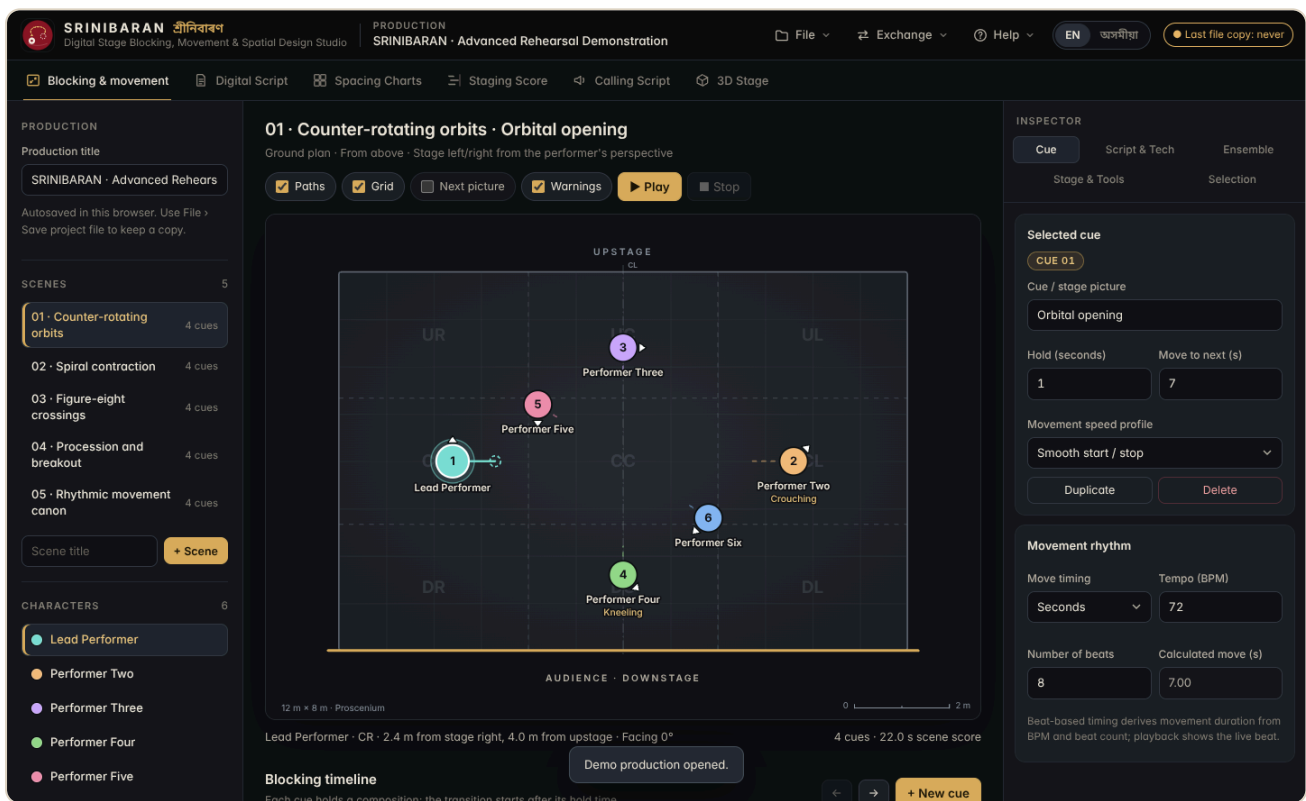
2 First steps

1. Open SRINIBARAN. The welcome screen shows the tribute, the credits and two buttons.
2. Choose **Open the demo production** to explore a finished example, or **Enter** to start with your own work.
3. To begin a new production later, open the **File** menu and choose **New production**.
4. Type the production title in the **Production** panel on the left, then set up the stage (section 4).

Tip

Tick “Do not show this again” on the welcome screen if you do not want to see it every time. You can open it again from **Help > Welcome screen**.

3 The workspace



Blocking & movement: Production panel, ground plan and Inspector

Top bar

- The SRINIBARAN mark and the title of the open production.
- **File:** new production, open and save the project file, Word and PDF import, Word export, stage SVG and PNG, print.
- **Exchange:** send work to another AANK app, or open work that came from one.

- **Help:** welcome screen, About, feedback, install as an app, and all AANK digital tools.
- **EN | অসমীয়া:** switches the whole interface between English and Assamese.
- **Last file copy:** how long ago you last saved a project file. Click it to open About, where the automatic backups are.

Six workspaces

Blocking & movement	The ground plan, the cues and the Inspector. Most of the work happens here.
Digital Script	The script, linked line by line to blocking cues.
Spacing Charts	One printable stage chart for every cue.
Staging Score	A timing table of the whole scene: cues, movement, gestures and technical notes.
Calling Script	The stage manager's book: dialogue or trigger, calling instructions and notes for each cue.
3D Stage	The same scene on a 3D stage, with camera views and playback.

Panels

The **Production** panel on the left holds the production title, the scenes, the characters and the stage settings. The **Inspector** on the right has five tabs: **Cue**, **Script & Tech**, **Ensemble**, **Stage & Tools** and **Selection**. On screens narrower than about 1250 pixels the two panels open as drawers from the buttons beside the workspace tabs; on a phone they slide over the plan.

4 Setting up the stage

Open **Stage / venue** in the Production panel. Choose the stage type and type the width and depth of the playing area in metres. When you change the type in a fresh production, SRINIBARAN suggests a typical size for it.

Stage type	What it is
Proscenium	Framed stage with the audience in front.
End stage (no arch)	The audience faces one end of the room; there is no proscenium arch.
Thrust stage	The stage projects into the audience, who sit on three sides.
Arena / theatre-in-the-round	The audience sits all round the playing space.
Traverse / alley	A long playing space with the audience on both long sides.
Black box / studio	A flexible room; the downstage side is a reference only.
Open-air / amphitheatre	An outdoor stage with stepped seating in front.
Bhaona · Namghar	The Namghar floor: the Manikut with the Guru Asana at the east end, the audience along both side corridors, and the Gayan-Bayan seated inside by the west entrance (the Batsora side), facing the Manikut. The Cho-ghar is not attached to the Namghar or part of it: it is a separate house in another part of the grounds, with a footpath to the entrance.

SRINIBARAN

PRODUCTION
SRINIBARAN · Advanced Rehearsal Demonstration

File Exchange Help

EN

Last file copy: never

Blocking & movement Digital Script Spacing Charts Staging Score Calling Script 3D Stage

PRODUCTION
Production title
SRINIBARAN · Advanced Rehears

Autosaved in this browser. Use File > Save project file to keep a copy.

SCENES 5
01 · Counter-rotating orbits 4 cues
02 · Spiral contraction 4 cues
03 · Figure-eight crossings 4 cues
04 · Procession and breakout 4 cues
05 · Rhythmic movement canon 4 cues
Scene title + Scene

CHARACTERS 6
Lead Performer
Performer Two
Performer Three
Performer Four
Performer Five

01 · Counter-rotating orbits · Orbital opening
Ground plan · From above · Stage left/right from the performer's perspective
☒ Paths ☒ Grid ☐ Next picture ☒ Warnings

12 m × 8 m · Proscenium

Lead Performer · CR · 2.4 m from stage right, 4.0 m from upstage · Facing 0°

4 cues · 22.0 s scene score

Blocking timeline
Each cue holds a composition; the transition starts after its hold time.

+ New cue

INSPECTOR
Cue Script & Tech Ensemble
Stage & Tools Selection

Selection / movement route
ACTOR · CR
Lead Performer
Character / actor name
Lead Performer
Marker colour
X position (%) 20 Y position (%) 50
Facing direction Upstage ↑ Presence Onstage
Entrance / exit side
Stage right wing (diagram left)
For an entrance: set this cue offstage and the next cue onstage. For an exit: reverse. Movement is animated to/from the selected wing.
Delay before movement (% of move)
0
Route to next cue
Select a cue that has a next cue. Add a waypoint,

The ground plan keeps the true proportions of the stage, with a 1 m grid and a scale bar

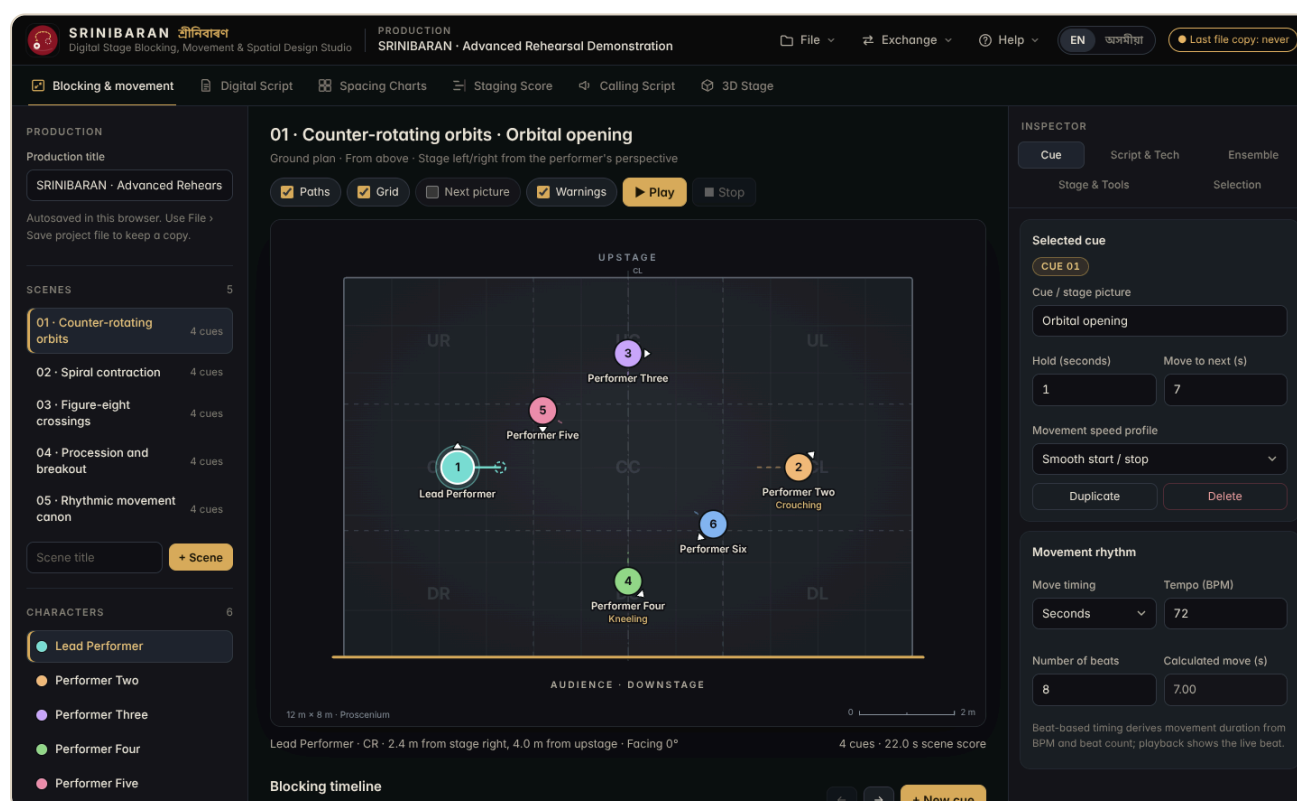
The ground plan is drawn from above with the audience at the bottom (for a proscenium). Stage left and stage right are always given from the performer's point of view, facing the audience, so stage right appears on the left of the plan. The nine stage areas (UR, UC, UL, CR, CC, CL, DR, DC, DL) are marked faintly on the floor.

Add scenes with **+ Scene** and characters with **+ Actor** in the Production panel. Each character gets a numbered disc in its own colour; the same numbers appear in the charts and on the 3D stage.

5 Blocking, cue by cue

A **cue** is one stage picture: where everyone stands at a given moment. The movement from one cue to the next is what SRINIBARAN animates and prints.

1. Choose a scene in the Production panel.
2. Drag the performers to their places on the plan. This is the first picture of the scene.
3. Press **+ New cue** under the plan (in the Blocking timeline). The new cue starts as a copy of the current one.
4. Drag the performers to their next positions. Repeat for every change of picture.
5. Use the arrows beside **+ New cue**, or the **←** and **→** keys when you are not typing, to step between cues.



The Cue tab: name, hold and move times, speed profile and rhythm

Timing

In the **Cue** tab of the Inspector, **Hold (seconds)** is how long the picture holds before the move begins, and **Move to next (s)** is how long the move takes. **Movement speed profile** sets how the move starts and stops. Under **Movement rhythm** you can time the move in beats instead: give the tempo and the number of beats, and SRINIBARAN calculates the seconds. **Duplicate** copies the cue; **Delete** removes it.

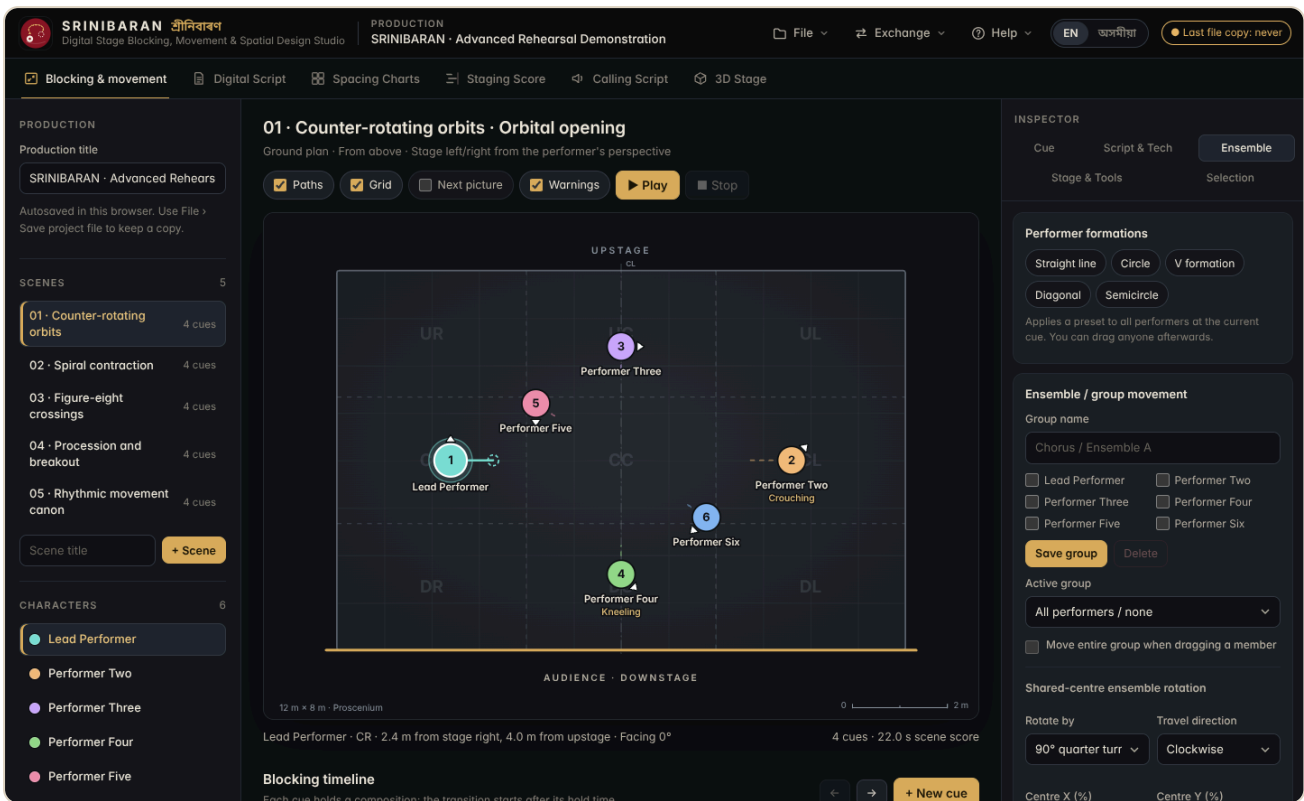
Checking the picture

- **Paths** shows the route each performer takes to the next cue.
- **Next picture** shows the next cue faintly over the current one.
- **Warnings** flags performers who come closer than 0.7 m to each other, at the cue or during the move. It is a planning aid only; confirm spacing and safety in rehearsal.
- **Play** runs the whole scene on the plan; **Stop** ends it.

6 Paths, entrances and posture

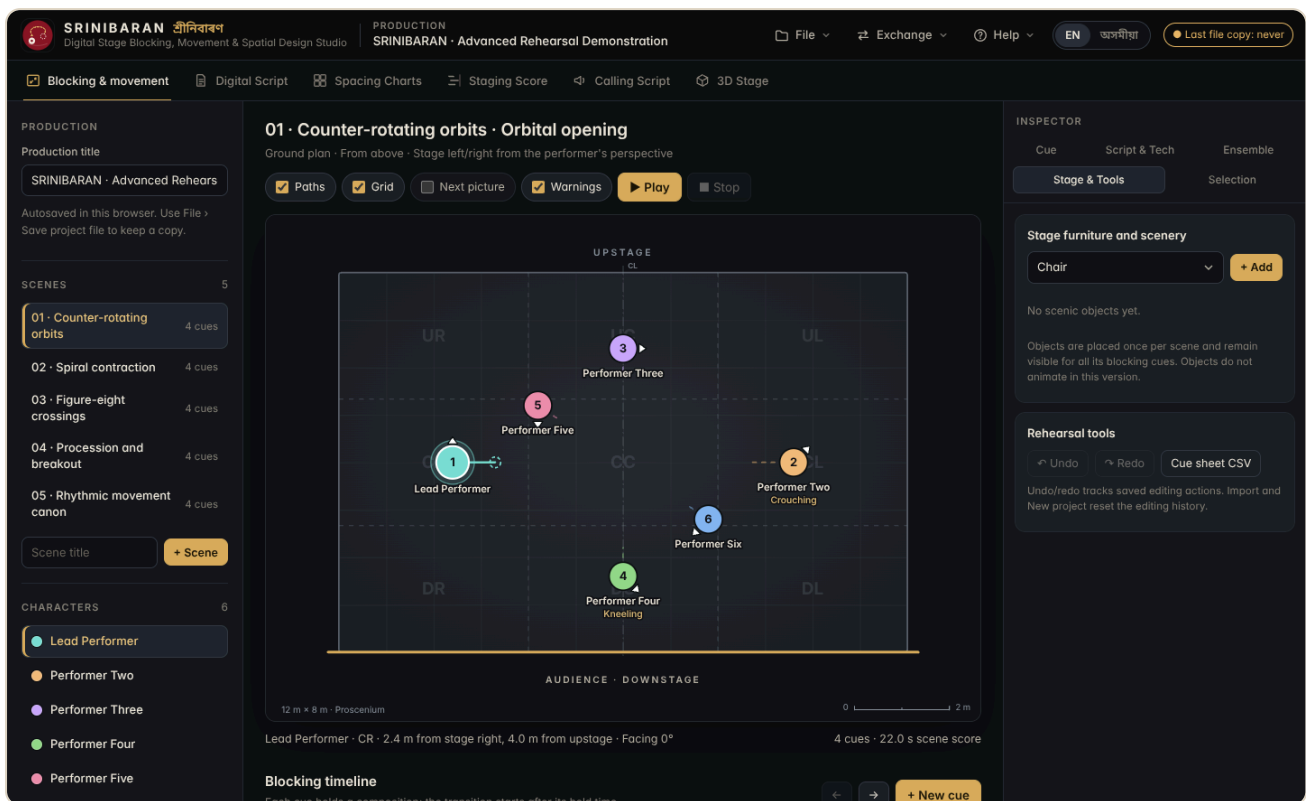
Click a performer on the plan and open the **Selection** tab of the Inspector.

- **Character / actor name, Marker colour**, and the exact **X** and **Y** position as a percentage of the stage.
- **Facing direction**: where the performer looks. The small arrow on the disc shows it.
- **Presence**: onstage, or offstage in a wing. For an entrance, set the performer offstage in this cue and onstage in the next; for an exit, the reverse. **Entrance / exit side** chooses the wing.
- **Route to next cue**: a direct line, a route through waypoints you place, a circular orbit, a spiral, a figure-eight or a Bézier curve with two handles you drag on the plan.
- **Independent movement timing**: a start delay and a travel time for this performer, so that people can start and finish at different moments.
- **Gesture and posture score**: posture (standing, sitting, kneeling, crouching, lying), the gesture or physical action, and the movement intention. Postures show on the plan and on the 3D figures.



The Ensemble tab: formations, groups and shared-centre rotation

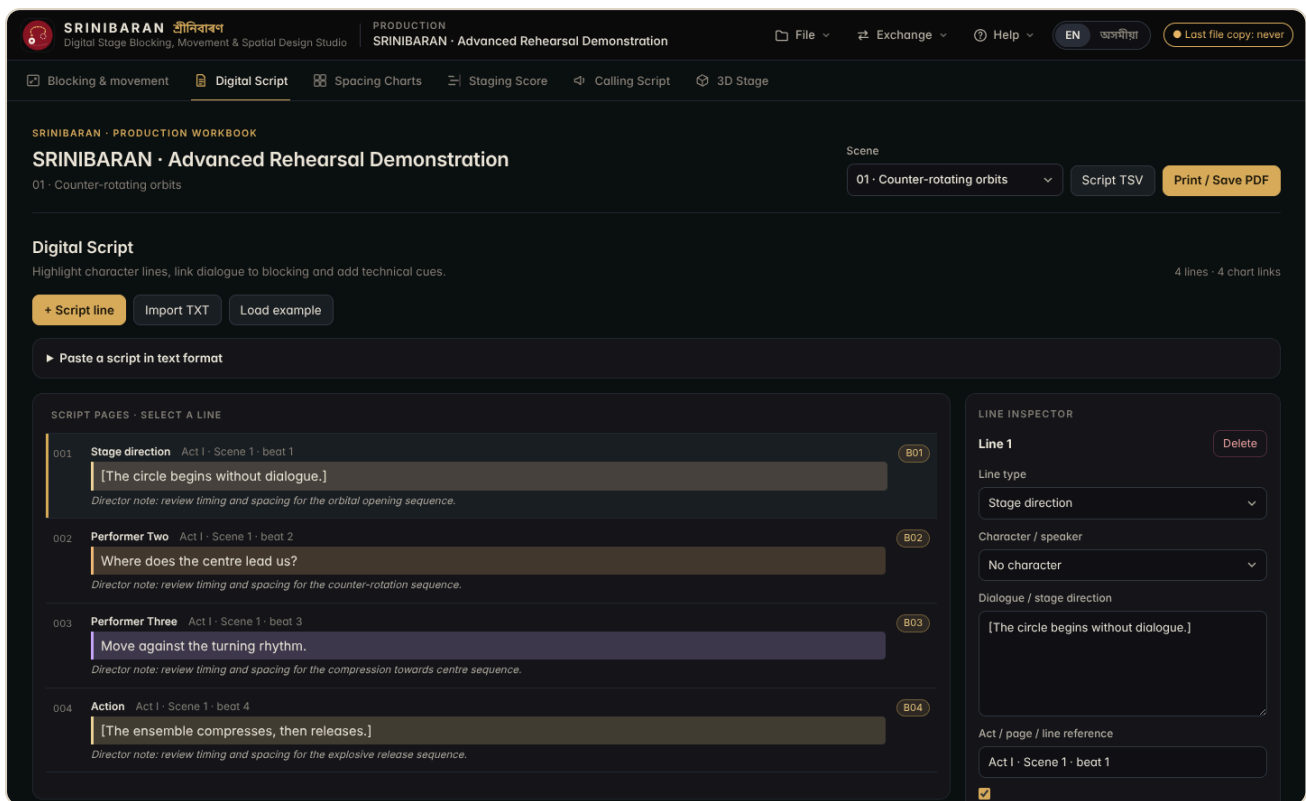
- **Performer formations** place the selected group (or everyone) in a line, an arc, a circle and other shapes in one step.
- Save a group of performers and tick **Move entire group when dragging a member** to move them together.
- **Shared-centre ensemble rotation** turns the group around one centre by the angle you choose (a quarter turn, a half turn, a full orbit or more). **Apply ensemble orbit → next cue** writes the rotation into the next cue, creating it if needed, and keeps each performer's distance from the centre.



The Stage & Tools tab

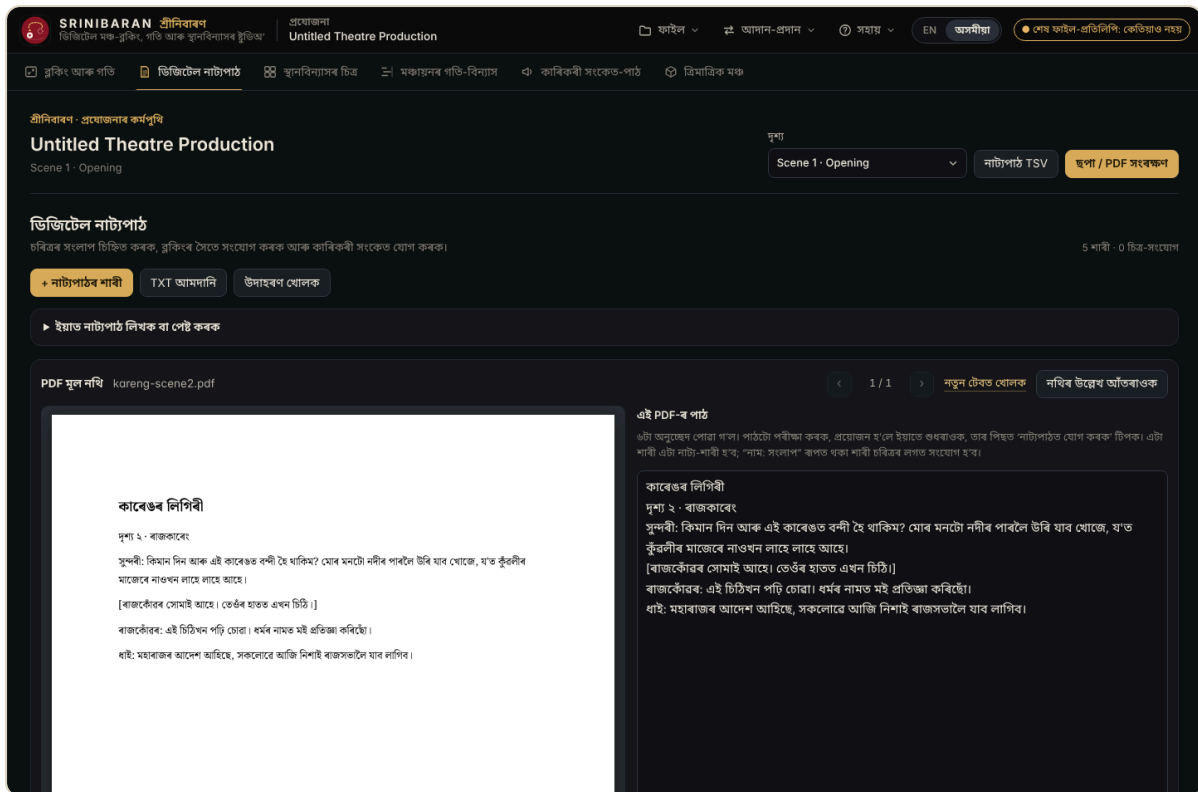
In **Stage & Tools**, choose an object (chair, table, platform, screen or flat, or another object) and press **+ Add**. Drag it on the plan, or type its position, size and rotation. Lock an object to stop it moving by accident. Objects belong to the scene and stay in place for all its cues; on the 3D stage they are drawn at typical heights.

Rehearsal tools offers undo and redo for your edits and a **Cue sheet CSV** that opens in any spreadsheet.



The Digital Script with the line editor

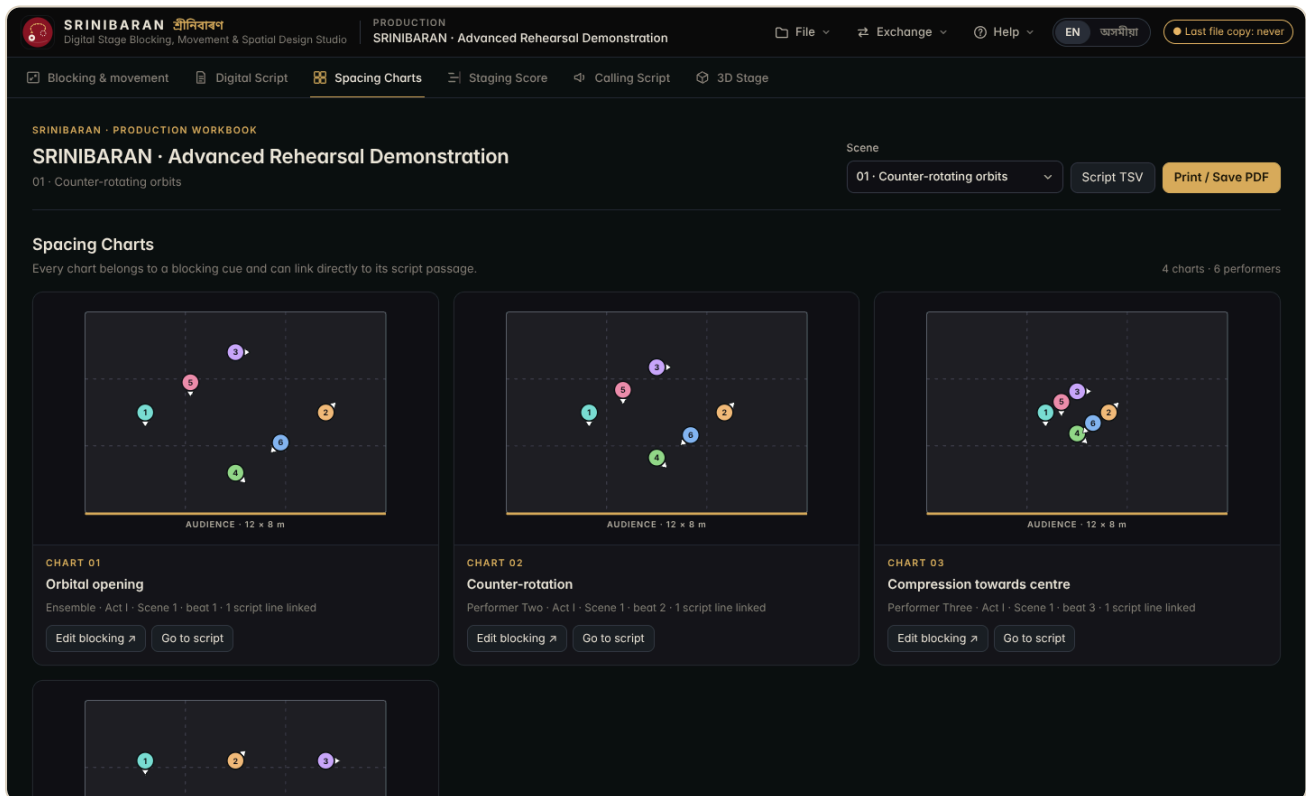
- Add lines one by one, or paste a whole script as text. A line written as “Name: dialogue” is linked to that character automatically.
- **File › Import Word** reads a .docx script. **File › Import PDF** shows the PDF pages beside the script and reads its text, Assamese included; check the text, then press **Add to script**. A scanned PDF has no text inside, so it stays as a page-by-page reference.
- Select a line to edit it in the line editor: its kind (dialogue, stage direction, physical action or rehearsal note), the speaker, the place in the script, notes, and the blocking cue it belongs to.
- A technical cue can be added at a line; it then appears in the Calling Script at that cue.
- **Script TSV** exports the script as a table.



PDF import: pages on the left, the text read from the PDF on the right

10

Spacing Charts and the Staging Score



Spacing Charts: one chart for each cue

The **Spacing Charts** workspace draws one ground plan for every cue of the scene, with the linked script lines. Click a chart to go back to that cue. Charts print on white paper.

The screenshot shows the SRINIBARAN Advanced Rehearsal Demonstration software interface. The top navigation bar includes the SRINIBARAN logo, the title 'SRINIBARAN · Advanced Rehearsal Demonstration', and various menu items like File, Exchange, Help, and language settings. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for Blocking & movement, Digital Script, Spacing Charts, Staging Score (selected), Calling Script, and 3D Stage. The main workspace is titled 'SRINIBARAN · PRODUCTION WORKBOOK' and 'SRINIBARAN · Advanced Rehearsal Demonstration'. It shows a scene selection dropdown set to '01 · Counter-rotating orbits' and buttons for 'Script TSV' and 'Print / Save PDF'. The 'Staging Score' section is active, displaying a table of cues with columns for Time, Script / Trigger, Stage Picture, Movement Score, and Technical Cues. The table lists three cues: 'Orbital opening' at 0.0s, 'Counter-rotation' at 8.0s, and 'Compression towards centre' at 16.0s. Each cue row includes detailed movement instructions for six performers and technical cues like lighting (LX), sound (SQ), and projection (PX) markers.

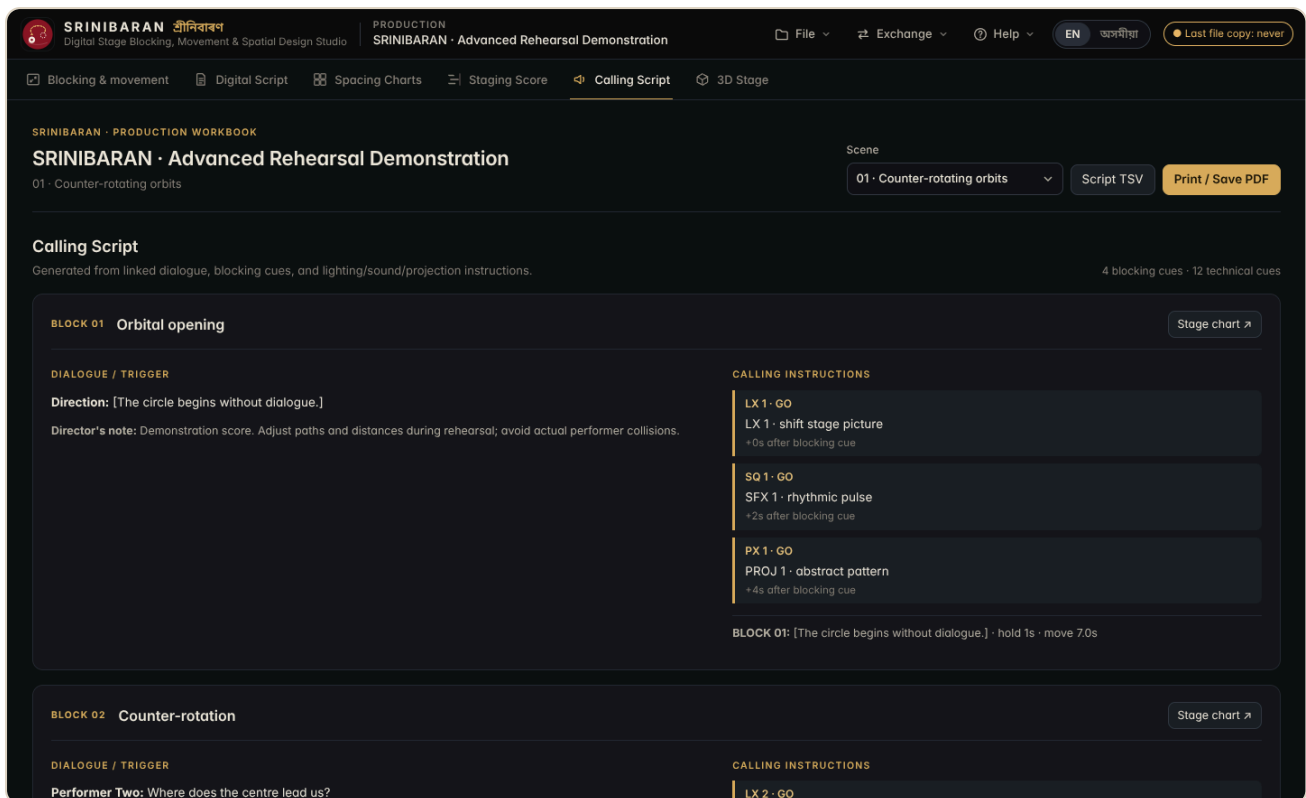
TIME	SCRIPT / TRIGGER	STAGE PICTURE	MOVEMENT SCORE	TECHNICAL CUES
0.0s Hold 1s · Move 7.0s	Ensemble[The circle begins without dialogue.] 1 linked script lines	Orbital opening Act 1 · Scene 1 · beat 1	- Lead Performer: direct · Performer 1: controlled directional reach - Performer Two: direct · +0.4s · Performer 2: controlled directional reach - Performer Three: direct · +0.8s · Performer 3: controlled directional reach - Performer Four: direct · +1.2s · Performer 4: controlled directional reach - Performer Five: direct · +1.6s · Performer 5: controlled directional reach - Performer Six: direct · +2s · Performer 6: controlled directional reach	LX · LX 1 · shift stage picture (0s) SQ · SFX 1 · rhythmic pulse (2s) PX · PROJ 1 · abstract pattern (4s)
8.0s Hold 0s · Move 8.0s	Performer TwoWhere does the centre lead us? 1 linked script lines	Counter-rotation Act 1 · Scene 1 · beat 2	- Lead Performer: circular · Performer 1: controlled directional reach - Performer Two: circular · +0.4s · Performer 2: controlled directional reach - Performer Three: circular · +0.8s · Performer 3: controlled directional reach - Performer Four: circular · +1.2s · Performer 4: controlled directional reach - Performer Five: direct · +1.6s · Performer 5: controlled directional reach - Performer Six: direct · +2s · Performer 6: controlled directional reach	LX · LX 2 · shift stage picture (0s) SQ · SFX 2 · rhythmic pulse (2s) PX · PROJ 2 · abstract pattern (4s)
16.0s Hold 0s · Move 6.0s	Performer ThreeMove against the turning rhythm. 1 linked script lines	Compression towards centre Act 1 · Scene 1 · beat 3	- Lead Performer: direct · Performer 1: controlled directional reach - Performer Two: direct · +0.4s · Performer 2: controlled directional reach - Performer Three: direct · +0.8s · Performer 3: controlled directional reach - Performer Four: direct · +1.2s · Performer 4: controlled directional reach - Performer Five: direct · +1.6s · Performer 5: controlled directional reach - Performer Six: direct · +2s · Performer 6: controlled directional reach	LX · LX 3 · shift stage picture (0s) SQ · SFX 3 · rhythmic pulse (2s) PX · PROJ 3 · abstract pattern (4s)

The Staging Score

The **Staging Score** lists every cue with its start time, hold and move, the trigger, each performer's movement and gesture, and the technical cues, so the whole scene can be read as one score.

11 Technical cues and the Calling Script

In the **Script & Tech** tab of the Inspector, add lighting (LX), sound (SQ) and projection (PX) markers to the selected blocking cue, each with a short description and an offset in seconds after the cue.



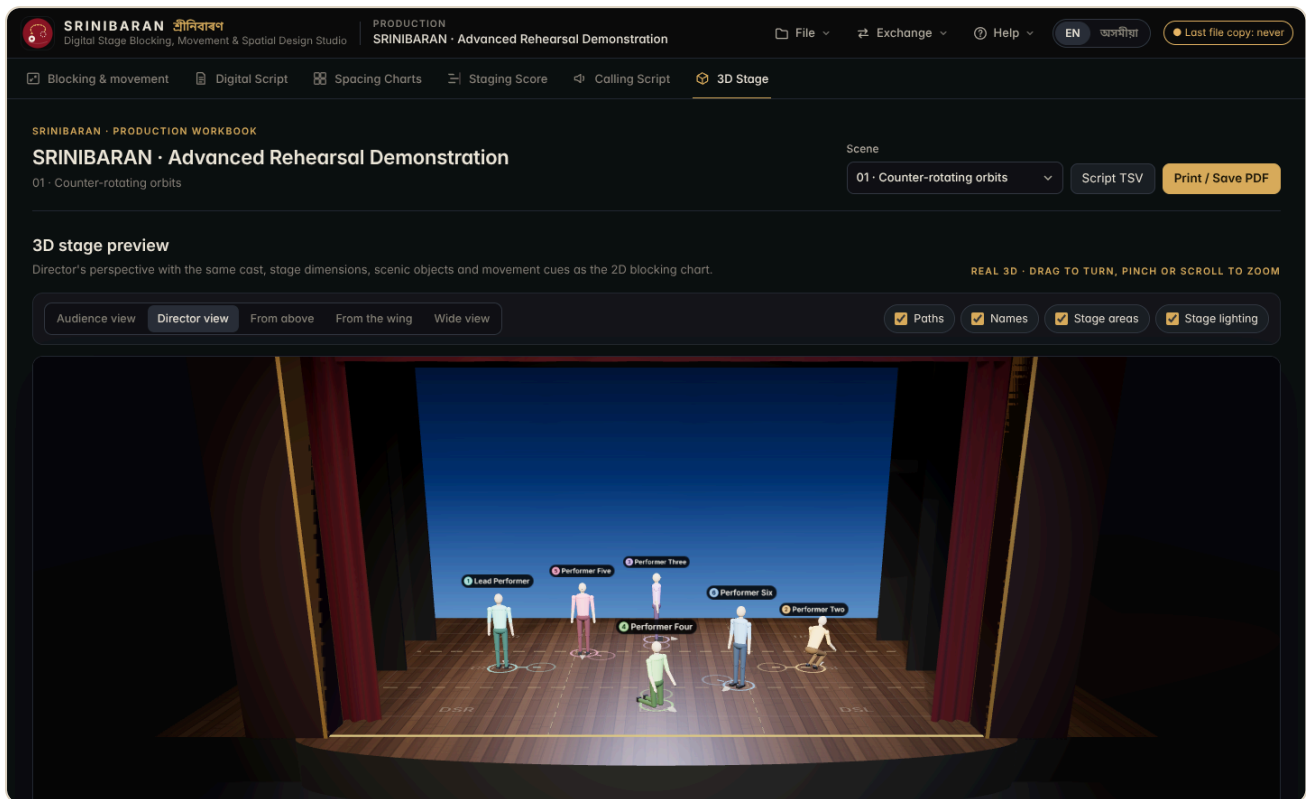
The Calling Script

The **Calling Script** shows, for every blocking cue, the dialogue or trigger, the calling instructions (for example “LX 1 · GO”) with their timing, the movement, and the director’s note. Print it for the stage manager.

Good to know

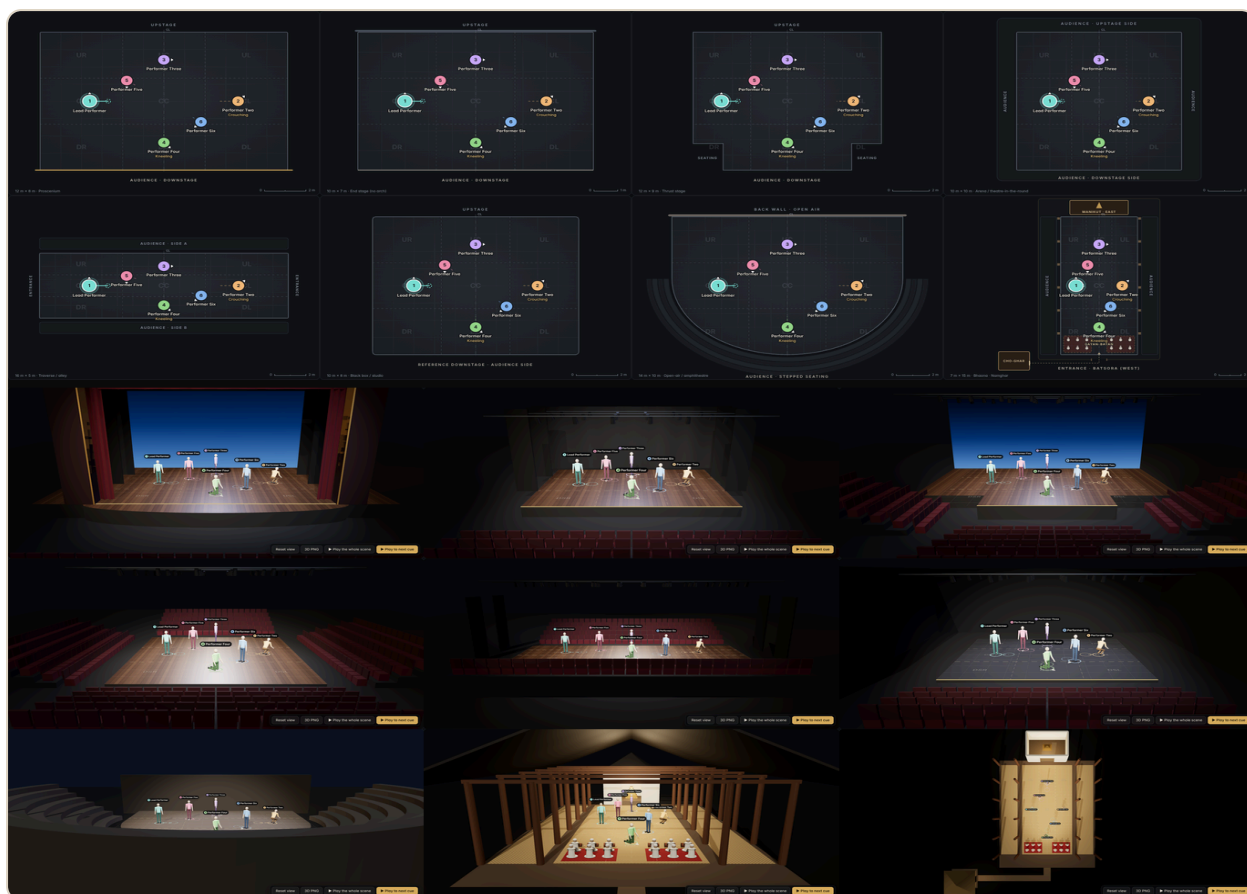
Technical cues in SRINIBARAN are rehearsal paperwork. They do not operate any lighting or sound equipment. For show control use BURHA LUIT; for lighting design use XUNPAKHILI.

12 The 3D stage



The 3D stage in the Director view

- Five camera views: **Audience view**, **Director view**, **From above**, **From the wing** and **Wide view**. Drag to turn, pinch or scroll to zoom.
- Switch **Paths**, **Names**, **Stage areas** and **Stage lighting** on or off.
- **Play to next cue** and **Play the whole scene** animate the performers, who walk, sit, kneel, crouch or lie as their posture says.
- **3D PNG** saves a picture; **Print / Save PDF** prints the view.
- Every stage type has its own 3D setting: house curtains and seating for the proscenium, stepped seats in the open air, and for Bhaona a lamp-lit Namghar with the Manikut, the Gayan-Bayan seated by the west entrance facing it, and the Cho-ghar standing apart in the grounds.



The eight stage types on the ground plan and in 3D

Scenery heights in 3D are typical values. Where a browser has no WebGL, SRINIBARAN shows a simple drawing instead.

13 Printing and exporting

Command	What you get
Print / Save PDF	Prints the open workspace. In the browser's print window choose Save as PDF to make a PDF.
Export Word	A .docx of the open workspace (script, charts with coordinates, score or calling script).
Stage SVG / Stage PNG	The current ground plan as a drawing or a picture.
Cue sheet CSV	All cues as a table (Stage & Tools tab).
Script TSV	The Digital Script as a table.
3D PNG	A picture of the 3D view.

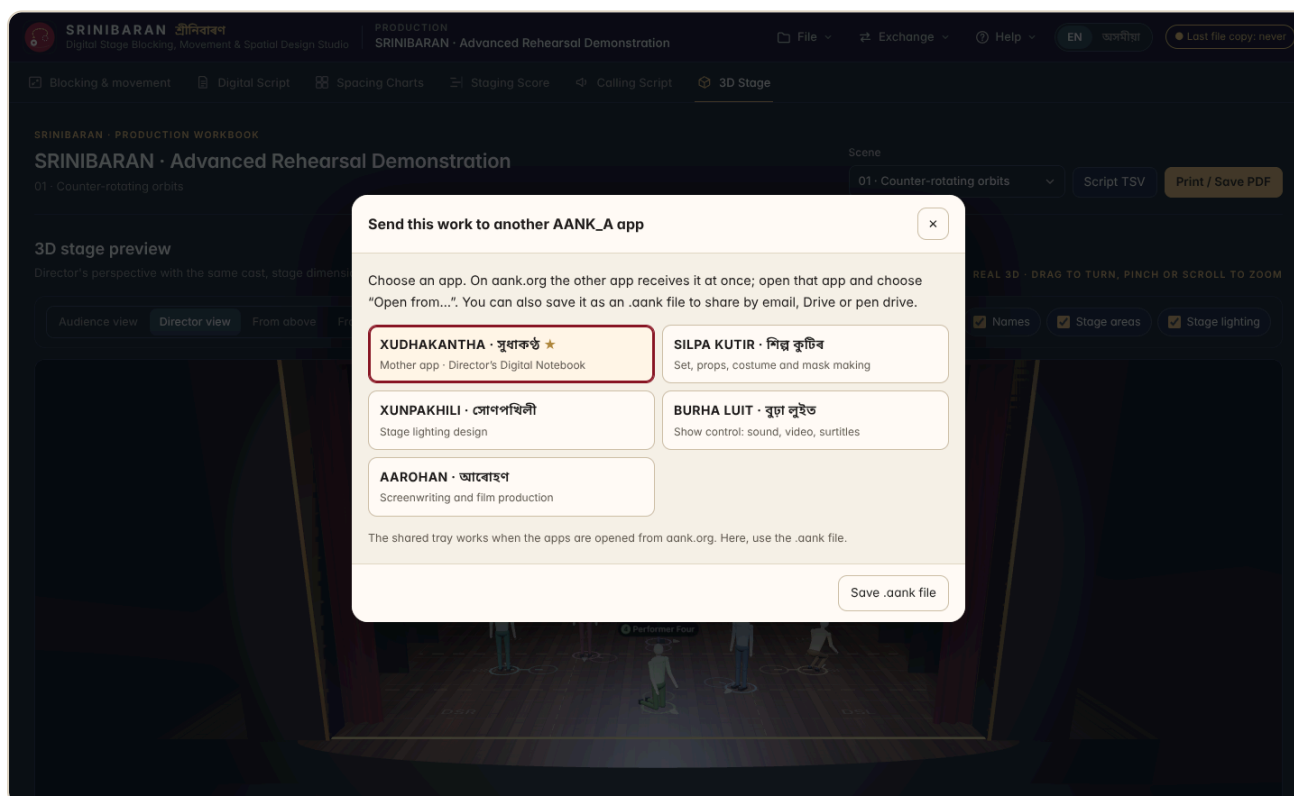
14 Saving your work

- Everything is saved automatically in this browser as you work.
- **File > Save project file** (Ctrl+S, or ⌘S on a Mac) saves a `.srinibaran.json` file. Keep it on Google Drive, a pen drive or in email; it is your real backup.
- **File > Open project file** (Ctrl+O, or ⌘O) opens one. Files from earlier versions of the studio open too.
- SRINIBARAN keeps the last five versions as automatic backups. Open **Help > About SRINIBARAN** to see them and restore one.
- If the browser cannot save, a warning appears at once. Save a project file then.

Note

A PDF you import is shown for reference but is not stored inside the project file. Keep the PDF with your project file.

15 Working with the other AANK apps



Exchange > Send to another AANK app

SRINIBARAN is one of seven apps that work together. XUDHAKANTHA, the mother app (the Director's Digital Notebook), gathers the work of all the studios into one production.

- **Exchange › Send to another AANK app:** choose the app. SRINIBARAN sends the production, the cast, the scenes, the script and the blocking, with every position in metres.
- When the apps are opened from aank.org, the work waits in a shared tray in your browser and the other app finds it under Open from. Anywhere else, save an `.aank` file and open it in the other app.
- **Exchange › Open work from another AANK app:** open work as a new production, or add it to the current one. Characters with the same name are matched.

16 A rehearsal workflow

1. Create the production and set the stage type and size.
2. Add the characters and the scenes.
3. Import or paste the script.
4. Block each scene cue by cue; add paths, entrances and exits.
5. Link script lines to their cues.
6. Add lighting, sound and projection markers.
7. Check the 3D stage and play the scene.
8. Print the Spacing Charts, the Staging Score and the Calling Script.
9. Save the project file after every rehearsal, and send the blocking to XUDHAKANTHA.

17 Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
The Inspector is missing on a phone or tablet	Open it with the Inspector button beside the workspace tabs.
A Word import comes out empty	The file may contain pictures of text. Save it again from Word as a normal .docx with real text.
PDF text looks wrong	Check and correct it in the text box before pressing Add to script. A scanned PDF has no text to read.
The 3D stage shows a flat drawing	The browser has no WebGL. Try Chrome or Edge, or update the browser.
Prints look different on paper	In the print window choose Save as PDF and check the paper size and margins.
A warning says autosave is not working	Save a project file now. Private browsing and full storage are the usual causes.

18 Known limits

- SRINIBARAN is a browser app, not a store app. File locations and downloads depend on the device.
- The 3D stage is a visual guide, not an architectural or rigging model.
- Scanned PDFs are not converted to text (no OCR).
- There is no cloud sync and no editing by several people at once; use project files and the Exchange menu.
- Technical cues are notes; nothing is sent to lighting or sound equipment.

SRINIBARAN (শ্রীনিবারণ) · Version 1.0

Created by Dr Mrinal Jyoti Goswami on behalf of AANK_A Creative Line, Assam, India.

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This version is free and will remain free. We plan to offer a Pro version later, with a few more advanced features. The Pro version will be a paid edition.

Feedback: mrinal.goswami2026@gmail.com · All digital tools: <https://aank.org/digital-tools/>

