

Visual Style — Decision Sheet

My Beautiful Laundrette (2026) opening titles · twelve AI-generated directions reduced to five real choices

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Sources: ChatGPT & Gemini briefs, 12.10.26

THE FIVE CHOICES

DIRECTION	WHAT THE WASHING MACHINE IS DOING	AE /5	THE RISK, HONESTLY
1. Glass ChatGPT "Glass Closet" + Gemini "Prismatic Lenticular"	Nothing is seen head-on. Everything is refracted through the porthole, the window, condensation, wired glass. Omar and Johnny meet as reflections before they meet as bodies. Water finally removes the boundary.	3	Reflections that read as pasted-on layers rather than optics. Fixable only by filming real glass.
2. Degraded print ChatGPT "Photocopied Nation" + Gemini "Agitprop Risograph"	Britain is photocopied, not washed. Adverts, headlines, forms and banknotes duplicate each rotation, losing contrast and registration. Tenderness is the one thing the machine cannot reproduce.	2	Relentless noise. Ninety seconds of texture with no story inside it.
3. Paperwork ChatGPT "Bureau of Cleanliness" / "Archaeological Dig" + Gemini "Cyanotype Ledger"	The state classifies the film. Ledgers, stamps, tenancy agreements, specimen labels. Two nearly-touching hands marked UNREGISTERED. Water dissolves the filing system.	2	Satire eats the love story. Clever, cold, and it stops being about two people.
4. Cloth and dye ChatGPT "Fabric of Britain" + Gemini "Haldi Bleach-Bath"	Britain is badly stitched, not flown. Seams, threads, stains. The drum behaves as a dye-vat: turmeric turns blood red in alkaline soap; block-print motifs bleed into banknotes.	2-3	Decorative craft. Beautiful material doing no narrative work.
5. Two spaces at once ChatGPT "Dreams in Two Languages" + Gemini "Specimen Slide"	Incompatible spaces coexist — terraces, painted interiors, an upside-down arch; or extreme macro, fibres and microplastics becoming typography.	4	Both briefs rate this hardest and Gemini says avoid it. Composition, not After Effects, is the problem.

WHERE BOTH AGREE (SO TREAT AS SETTLED)

- **Shoot before you composite.** Water on glass, steam, soap foam, scanned cloth, bleached newsprint, photocopier drag. One afternoon buys the whole look.
- **Stay in 2D.** No 3D cameras, no virtual lights. Both flag these as where a three-week beginner loses days.
- **Let colour arrive late.** If the opening is already neon there is no transformation left to make.
- **Borrow structure, not motifs.** On South Asian reference, take ways of organising space — never decorative lettering or "exotic" pattern.
- **Same canon.** Both independently name Linder Sterling, See Red Women's Workshop, Black Audio Film Collective, Sankofa, Sunil Gupta.

WHERE THEY DIFFER (SO IT IS YOUR CALL)

- **ChatGPT argues art history.** Political collage, Kennard, Heartfield, Himid. Strong on *why* an image means something. Thinner on how to build it.
- **Gemini argues chemistry and kit.** Named effects, recipe cards, difficulty matrix. Strong on *how*. Occasionally a look in search of a reason.
- They recommend **different hybrids**: Glass + print (ChatGPT) against Cyanotype + scratched 16mm (Gemini).
- Gemini offers Section 28 and the BLK Art Group as context. That is the sharper 1985 framing and worth citing in the blog either way.
- **Neither is wrong.** They disagree because the brief is open, which is the point of Week 4.

IF YOU WANT MY RECOMMENDATION

Commit to **Glass as the structure** and **degraded print as the contents** — ChatGPT's hybrid, with Gemini's cyanotype blue bleeding to magenta as the colour mechanism. Three reasons: glass is already physically in the film and in your Week 3 writing (*reflection = public/private*), so the style argues the theme rather than decorating it; print gives you something specific to put in the drum, which is the weakness of every other option; and at 2–3/5 it is buildable from footage you can shoot on a phone this weekend. Keep paperwork in reserve — one stamped form in the tumble will do the work of the whole Bureau direction.

0:00–0:30 Documented Rain on glass, municipal lettering, the coin. Grey, recognisable, almost still.	0:30–0:54 Reproduced Print degrades with each rotation. Money, boots, one classification stamp.	0:54–1:17 Imagined Portal opens. Reflections layer. Cyan and pink arrive <i>here</i> , not before.	1:17–1:30 Transformed Water erases the paperwork. Bubble. Pop. Title — and hold it longer than feels comfortable.
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THREE QUESTIONS THAT ACTUALLY DECIDE IT

1. **What is in the drum?** If you cannot name six specific objects, the direction is a texture, not a style. Glass and print both pass this. Fabric does not, yet.
2. **Where are Omar and Johnny?** Any direction in which they never appear is a design exercise about Thatcherism. Reflections put them in without animating a human figure.
3. **Can you shoot it on Saturday?** Five-second tests, nothing longer: print degrading, two reflections overlapping as condensation clears, red-white-blue scraps tumbling with one seam unravelling. Compare the three and let the footage choose. That evidence is also your style-board content and your next blog post.