◗. Acting Bud

Team VoiceRus

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Problem

Actors and actresses often don't have easy and timely access to a practice partner or practice space, making it difficult for them to adequately prepare for their roles.

Target User

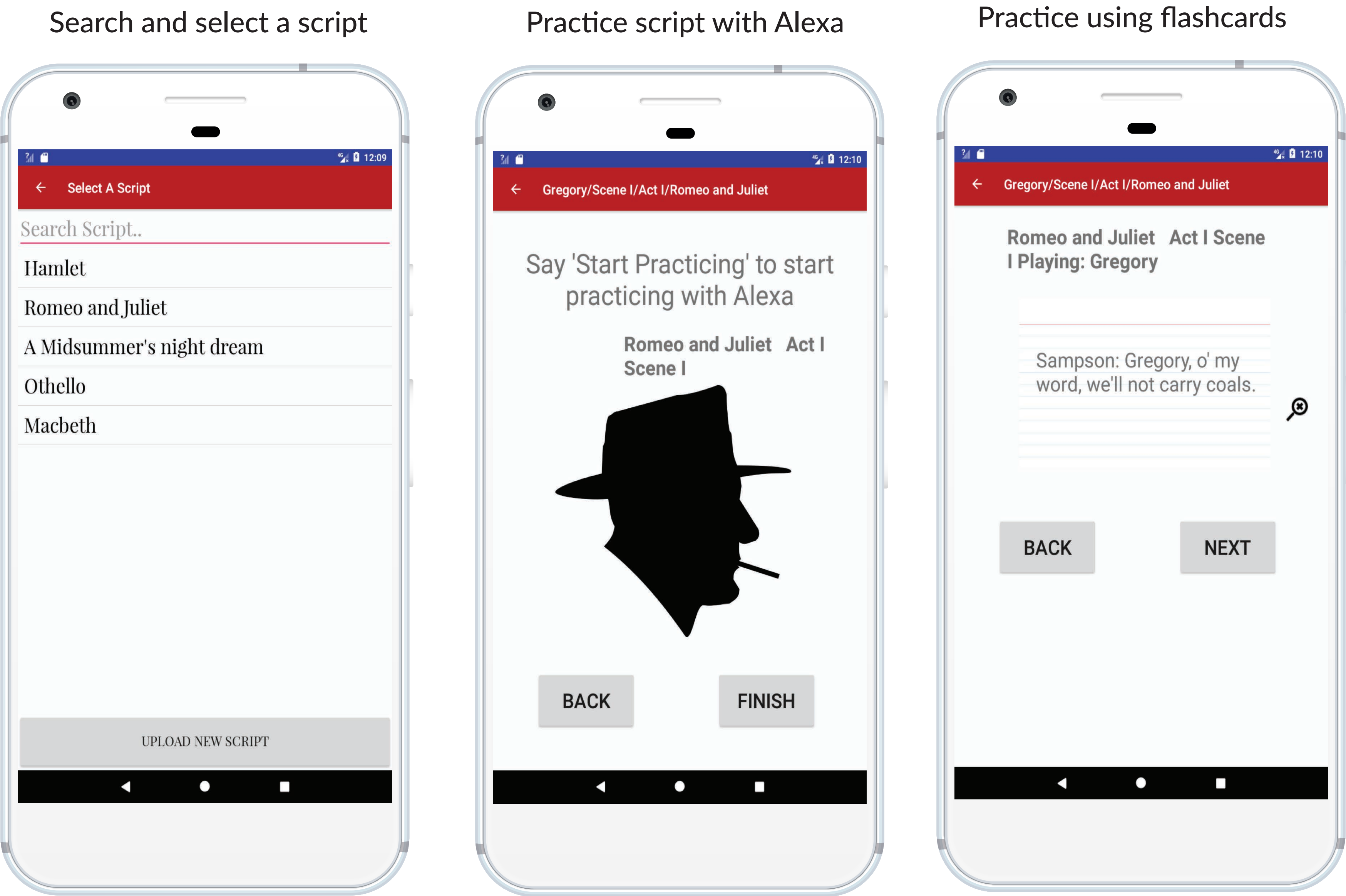Actors and actresses without easy access to an acting partner or space.

Solution

Acting Bud allows users to practice lines of a script at anytime, anywhere, and over and over again without the need of a scene partner(s).

Sample Dialog

User: open actingbud
AB: Welcome to Acting Bud! You've selected Romeo and Juliet, Act 1, Scene 1, and Gregory. When you are ready to begin practicing please say 'start practicing'. To select another play, say quit.
User: start practicing
AB: Sampson says 'Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.'
User: Cue me
AB: Sampson says 'Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.'
User: jump to line 51
AB: Sampson says "Say 'better:' here comes one of my master's kinsmen."
User: stop practicing
AB: Are you sure you want to stop practicing Romeo and Juliet, Act 1, Scene 1, and Gregory?
User: Yes.
AB: Goodbye! Thank you for using Acting Bud!

Search and select a script

Practice script with Alexa

Practice using flashcards

1 **Search and select a script:** Users will be able to search for a script that is already provided in the database or upload their own script that is not apart of the existing dataset.

2 **Practice script with Alexa:** Users can practice the selected script with Alexa. For example, the user can ask Alexa to provide the user with the previous line, the user's current line, pause/resume practicing, or jump to another line.

3 **Practice script using flashcard GUI feature:** The flashcard GUI allows users to see the line before their line on a flashcard. If the user forgets her own line, she can choose to flip the flashcard.

Final Prototype

Incorporating the feedback we received from our user studies, we focused our solution on providing a database of scripts for actors, and aiding actors in memorizing their lines for their roles. The final interaction flow is that users can upload a script, or select the script, act, scene, and role they wish to practice. Finally, users have the option to either rehearse with Alexa or our flashcard GUI.

Design Evolution

The first prototype of Acting Bud focused on users' recording their practice sessions with Alexa. However, after user feedback, we learned that users found the recording functionality unnecessary. Instead, users found the scripts database and memorizing tools most helpful in preparing for their roles.