**Director**
**DR. JULIENNE GREER**

UT Arlington Department of Theatre Arts
Assistant Professor
Assistant Department Chair
Emotional Robotics Living Lab Director

*Interviewed by Garrett Hall, Maverick Theatre Company Student Dramaturg*

**INTERVIEWER:**
BALM IN GILEAD was the first full-length play written by Pulitzer Prize-winner, Lanford Wilson. Premiering originally in 1965 on off-off Broadway, what do you think BALM IN GILEAD has to say to audiences today?

**DR. GREER:**
Although situated in the 1960s, I think the play looks at resilience, warmth, humor and connected-ness among human beings who are on the fringe of society. I think those components develop to create an empathetic world view and that world view is sorely needed in a fractured society in which we currently reside.

**INTERVIEWER:**
What conversation(s) would you like to see BALM IN GILEAD generate?

**DR. GREER:**
The specificity of each UTA actor’s work to create an authentic character, and how do we relate to these character’s lives in the 2020s.

**INTERVIEWER:**
How has COVID-19 shaped your vision of presenting BALM IN GILEAD?

**DR. GREER:**
COVID completely shaped our vision. Our actors never once rehearsed or performed with each other in the same space. The tremendous ability the UTA actors displayed to connect and continue their artistic work in a new medium was awe-inspiring.

Dr. Julienne Greer works with interdisciplinary teams including Social Work, Education, Computer Science, and Engineering. Dr. Greer is an interdisciplinary scholar-artist working at the emerging intersection of theatre and social robotics. Her research includes collaboration with many diverse disciplines to help problem solve and promote the human condition in healthcare, industry, research, and educational fields. Dr. Greer earned a BFA in Drama from New York University, an MA in Media Arts from Texas Christian University, and her Ph.D. in Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas.