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FILM INDUSTRY COLUMNIST RELEASES NOVEL SET IN HOSPICE**Dalton Publishing releases Joe M. O'Connell's *Evacuation Plan*, a novel from the hospice**

Austin, Texas, July 2007— Award-winning writer and *Dallas Morning News* and *Austin Chronicle* film columnist Joe M. O'Connell weaves a wondrous novel of the terminally ill and their families, friends, and enemies who share surprising joys and revealing truths as they experience the final transformation of life.

In the novel-in-stories style of Tim O'Brien's *July July*, Joe M. O'Connell's characters in *Evacuation Plan* reveal themselves in poignantly unfolding stories: the gambler who played a risky game involving his wife and his ex-con father; the daughter whose dying father had no clue about the night her world spun out of control; the drunk who magically encountered himself as a boy.

Evacuation Plan is loosely inspired by time O'Connell spent at Hospice Austin's Christopher House listening to the terminally ill, their families, and the nurses and staff talk about the greatest taboo of all: death. Dalton Publishing will donate a portion of the proceeds from *Evacuation Plan* to Hospice Austin.

ADVANCE QUOTES: <http://www.daltonpublishing.com/books/EVA/EVAQuotes.doc>

EXCERPTS: <http://www.daltonpublishing.com/books/EVA/EVAExcerpts.pdf>

AUTHOR PHOTO: <http://www.daltonpublishing.com/books/EVA/JoePrint1.jpg>

BOOK COVER ART: <http://www.daltonpublishing.com/books/EVA/EVAPrint.jpg>

URLs: <http://www.daltonpublishing.com/evacuation>; <http://www.joemoconnell.com>

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About Joe M. O'Connell: Joe M. O'Connell is a film industry columnist for the *Dallas Morning News* and *The Austin Chronicle* who has also contributed to *Variety* and *Texas Monthly*. O'Connell earned an MFA in creative writing from Southwest Texas State University where he worked long distance with the late short story master Andre Dubus. O'Connell's stories have appeared in *The G.W. Review*, *Other Voice*, *Confrontation*, *Lullwater Review*, and many other journals. His stories have taken first prize at both the Deep South Writers Conference and in the Louzelle Rose Barclay Awards.

O'Connell teaches writing at St. Edward's University and Austin Community College. He lives near Austin with his wife and newborn son Nicholas.

About Dalton Publishing: Dalton Publishing, an independent press based in Austin, Texas, adheres to the highest editorial and printing standards, while respecting the cutting-edge visions of its world-class stable of authors. Through a model of support, marketing, publicity, and social media, Dalton Publishing provides authors a platform for success in the highly competitive publishing market. Genres for publication include: poetry, non-fiction, and fiction. www.daltonpublishing.com

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FACT SHEET: *EVACUATION PLAN, a novel from the hospice, Joe M. O'Connell*

About the book: *Evacuation Plan, a novel from the hospice*, is a poignant look into the world of death, dying, and life. Fiction—real, inspirational, and compelling.

In the novel-in-stories style of Tim O'Brien's *July July* and Charles Baxter's *The Feast of Love*, O'Connell's characters in *Evacuation Plan* reveal themselves in poignantly unfolding stories: the gambler who played a risky game involving his wife and his ex-con father; the mortician who was an unwed father-to-be; the daughter whose dying father had no clue about the night her world spun out of control; the nurse who lived among aging neighbors and struggled to hold her own family in place; the drunk who magically encountered himself as a boy. Forgiveness, joy, making the final leap: *Evacuation Plan* is the story of a world in which the clock ticks off the final moments for all of us and makes of those moments a lifetime.

Release Date: **Local: Austin, Texas:** July 26, 2007; **National:** August 1, 2007

TITLE: *EVACUATION PLAN, a novel from the hospice*

AUTHOR: Joe M. O'Connell

FOREWORD: *Washington Post* obituary writer, Joe Holley

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