

*"Benediction is brutal in its honesty and pristine in its prose... an absolutely wonderful debut."*

**Amos Lassen, "Literary Pride," [eureka-pride.com](http://eureka-pride.com)**

"At home, Ben Schmidt has mice in his walls. At work, office politics threaten his dot-com job. In life, he's cheating on his boyfriend, he's frantic to finish his first film - and he has prostate cancer.

"Arnold navigates contemporary queer midlife angst with sizzle and flair, witty writing and intricate plotting, and multidimensional characters with emotional depth. This is a dandy debut."

**Richard Labonte, Book Marks, Q Syndicate**

**Title**

Benediction

**Author**

Jim Arnold

**Category**

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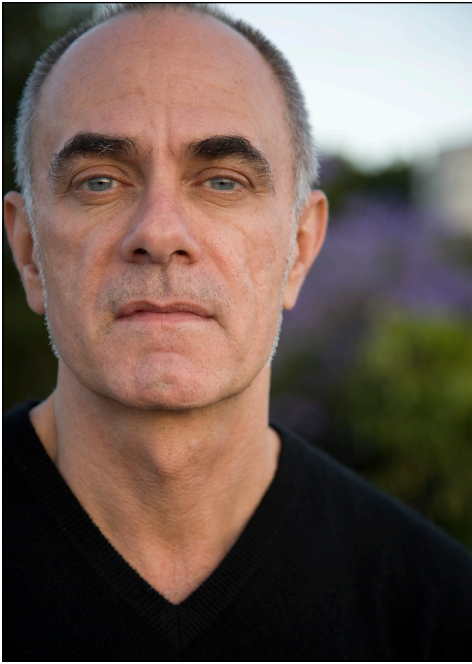
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As a writer, Jim Arnold is the author of feature film screenplays and teleplays, including the drama series *Troll Palace*.

*Benediction* is his first novel.

For Eureka Street Pictures, Jim directed the critically-acclaimed documentary short *Our Brothers, Our Sons*, about generational differences around HIV/AIDS in gay men.

Jim has written for *Frontiers*, *Variety*, *Prime Health & Fitness* and other periodicals and fiction anthologies. He began his career in musical theatre and holds a BA in journalism and film from Marquette University, and has studied film production/writing in the MFA program at the University of Southern California, the Writers Program at UCLA, and at Film Arts Foundation in San Francisco. He lives in Los Angeles.

***Benediction*** is a darkly humorous take on a middle-aged gay filmmaker's journey through prostate cancer. Title character Ben Schmidt's having an affair with the sexy artist upstairs, has another guy on the side, and he's also just directed a movie, something he's always wanted to do.

At work, his nemesis is hell-bent on getting him fired. Despite all this, the guy's got a darkly skewed sense of humor, and learns to navigate the strange reality of Cancerworld just as his movie begins its festival tour and the situation at work gets worse.

The happy outcome of any of these situations being far from certain, Ben struggles to figure out what love and friendship really mean, as he fights for his literal survival – at the same time dealing with those who want to give advice, including dead friends – who can't resist popping back in as ghosts with words of questionable wisdom.

Contact:

Jim Arnold

[www.eurekastreetpress.com](http://www.eurekastreetpress.com)

[jamesjarnold@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesjarnold@yahoo.com)

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