

# Living

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SECTION C

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## STAGE

### 'Glass Booth' intensely provocative

By Jennifer Bloomfield  
*Free Press Correspondent*

Robert Shaw's play, presented this week by Green Candle Theatre Company, is a controversial drama inspired by Adolf Eichmann's apprehension by the Mossad and his trial for Nazi war crimes. The glass booth created to shield him during the trial exemplifies the adamant distinction between just and unjust made by the Israeli government and assailed in this play.

Arthur Goldman, compellingly portrayed by John D. Alexander, is a successful Jewish businessman in Manhattan during the Johnson era. His finished corporate veneer slowly shatters as the Mossad closes in on him.

### If you go

- **WHAT:** "The Man in the Glass Booth"
- **WHEN:** 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 8 p.m. June 18-20.
- **WHERE:** Memorial Auditorium, Burlington
- **COST:** \$5-\$15, suggested
- **INFORMATION:** 893-7333, 863-5966

Goldman asks again and again what makes people follow authority like sheep. He muddies the line between victim and oppressor, berating the victims for their own responsibility and portraying the oppressors as victims of those who would allow themselves to be exploited.

Shaw's play is controversial. It is daring. It is insulting to anyone who has been a victim of violence or whose life has been touched by the Holocaust.

Goldman's actions are so shocking, his guilt, anger and hatred of himself

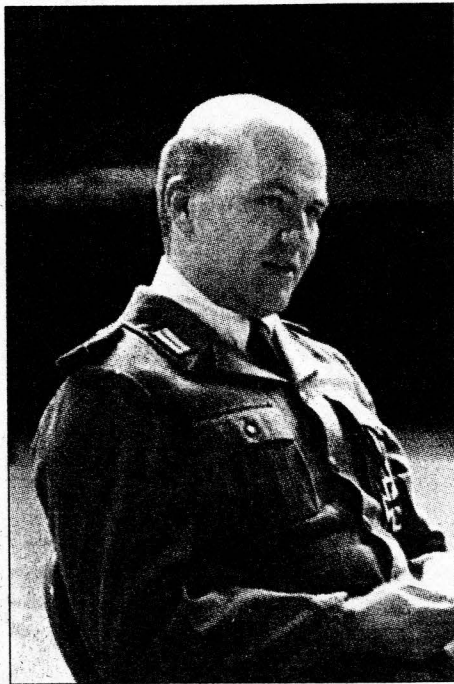
and the other Jews, and Germans who followed the fuhrer, so vehement that the audience cannot escape the complexity of his dilemma, or his psychosis.

Mark Nash directs Green Candle's show, pulling out excellent performances. Alexander, whose Arthur Goldman dominates the stage, commands attention.

Geri Amori's performance also stands out, though only on stage for the denouement of the play. As Mrs. Lehmann, she was firmly grounded in her character, and the character's ability to reach the core of Goldman was therefore compelling. Ryan Ober was pleasingly pitiful as Goldman's devoted assistant.

The production tripped on technical stumbling blocks, with over-long set changes that did not serve the momentum. The use of the space and technical limitations in Memorial Auditorium was excellent, though.

The play is riddled with problems. It is dense, sometimes tedious. It is provocative in a way some will not want to be provoked. It will push buttons and it will push understanding. Go see it.



John D. Alexander plays Arthur Goldman in Green Candle Theatre's "The Man in the Glass Booth," which continues its run through June 20 at Memorial Auditorium in Burlington.