

Essentially allegorical, "The Man Who Had All the Luck" follows the progress of David Beeves as he makes his way through a mostly ordinary Depression-era life. But the rough spots in his path have an uncanny habit of disappearing. When his fiancée's father blocks David's marriage, a "lucky" automobile accident removes him from the scene. When the state decides to build a highway, it runs right past David's gas station. As others fail, he seemingly inexplicably prospers.

Mr. Miller, who has not seen the production, said by telephone from his home in Connecticut that the play deals with a universal concern: "Am I being watched or am I just a freewheeling atom in the universe?" The theme, he added, was not properly explored when the play had its debut. "They didn't know what to do with it in 1944," Mr. Miller said. "Frankly, neither did I. And the critics couldn't dig it. That's why it was basically discarded."

The play, directed by Mr. Fields, is being presented at a converted power station in the shadow of the old MGM lot in Culver City. But Antaeus is establishing a permanent home in North Hollywood, converting a warehouse into a 99-seat theater with a thrust stage. Dakin Matthews, the managing director of Antaeus, bought the property for \$850,000 and is leasing it to the company. He said the troupe might take up residence in what will be known as the New Place Studio Theater by the fall of next year. The move marks another addition to the NoHo Arts District, an area of commercial redevelopment that has the support of the city's business and arts communities.

Mr. Matthews gave credit to Mr. Gutrecht -- who did get the title role in "The Man Who Had All the Luck" -- for starting the process that has brought Antaeus its greatest success thus far. "None of us had heard of the script," Mr. Matthews said. "We felt it was an undiscovered classic. And one of the things we like to do here is unearth buried treasure."

David Mermelstein reviews theater for the L.A. Weekly.