

Billboard®

89th
YEAR

Talent In Action

THE RAYBEATS

Irving Plaza, New York
Admission: \$8

The Raybeats are an instrumental trio from the Midwest who sound like a '60s surf band spit and polished for the '80s. Their show here Jan. 6 confirmed past comparisons to the Ventures and Booker T & the MG's, but the Raybeats are definitely a hot contemporary band dedicated to a rocking dance beat and intricate, flawlessly executed melodies.

Pat Irwin is impressive on both keyboards and sax, adding a jazzy touch that is the key element in the group's contemporary appeal. Jody Harris has an endearing stage persona with a humble, tongue-in-cheek sense of humor and a lickety-split guitar style. Drummer Don Christensen pushes the swelling rhythms along with crisp accuracy.

Drawing on cuts from their 1982 debut album "Guitar Beat" and their current Shanachie release "It's Only A Movie," the Raybeats kept the young crowd hopping with an exhausting hour-plus set. The trio represents a new direction for Shanachie, formerly devoted to traditional Irish music and reggae.

KIM FREEMAN



PLAZA DATE—The Raybeats headline Irving Plaza in New York.