

# Seeing Sound

**Photographer Sam A. Marshall's exhibit evokes both visual and aural memories**

by Billie Felix Jeyes

Sam A. Marshall's desire to elicit more than a visual reaction to his photographs is apparent in the title he has given to his latest exhibit: *Synesthesia*.

"It's the idea of the sound becoming the vision; one stimulus creating another response," he explains.

Although his favorite subjects are musicians, Marshall prefers to work anonymously—unlike Annie Leibowitz, the famed *Rolling Stone* photographer who tends to set up shots and poses.

"I don't think that's good. I don't like it," he says. "I see myself more of a journalist, documenting. I don't want the musician to be aware that I'm shooting. I try not to draw attention to myself."

As to what he aims to capture on film, Marshall looks for peak moments. "Sometimes, it's the more sensitive moments," he elaborates. "A good photo can either be dramatic or reveal something about the subject. I think a picture can be more than a typical air guitar pose.

"Photographs have evolved to a more impressionist style,

given the nature of the subject and lighting conditions of the clubs," he continues. "It's



**Ricky Nye and the Red Hots on Fountain Square in August '94.  
Photo by Sam A. Marshall.**

more kinetic and in your face. My ethic more is to have the frozen moment.

"I started out shooting my favorite bands, sneaking into clubs and arenas and taking photos. I won't do it now," he laughs, "because I don't want to get my camera confiscated."

For the most part, he is self-taught.

"I did study at UC for a year, at DAAF. I wanted to

learn black and white, darkroom. Taking class really got me interested in texture and expression, observing body language and listening also. Before, I'd just fire away."

His real break as a photographer, he says, was when he became editor of *Photographer's Market*, a position he held from 1989 to '92. "My real opportunity to learn," he says, "was interviewing other photographers."

Marshall has had over 400 articles published, and, these days, he writes for trade magazines, including *Photo District News*, doing profiles, spot news pieces and reporting on trends and issues. He also works for C.J. Krehbiel, a textbook company.

But his first love is photography.

"In a sense," he says, "these [photographs] are creating memories. At the moment I take the picture, I'm trying to preserve a memory."

*Sam A. Marshall's photographs are on display through Feb. 29 at Norton Photography, 2609 Vine St., Corryville. 321-5019 ■*