

Chandler, Ahwatukee girls show dance talent on 'Ellen'

by **Coty Dolores Miranda** - Jun. 4, 2012 01:54 PM
Special for The Republic

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Two Southeast Valley girls appeared on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" last week to dance with pop singer Kat Graham as she performed her hit song, "Put Your Graffiti on Me."

Ahwatukee's Kendall Glover, 12, and Chandler's Taylor Knight, 13, were chosen as "mini-me dancers," shadowing Kat and her regular background dancers in the energetic dance routine. The highly stylized hip-hop dance routine took several weekends of Los Angeles rehearsals for the girls, who were accompanied by their mothers.

For Taylor, who [shares](#) the same L.A. agent as Kendall, it was her first big gig since signing with the Clear Talent Group last September.

Kendall, whose solo dance routine won first runner-up in last year's Paula Abdul's television competition "Live to Dance," has worked regularly in L.A. on national commercials for Toyota and Old Navy, and dancing in "Dancing With the Star's -- Macy's Stars of Dance."

This was the first time the two friends danced together professionally, though they've taken dance together at Kimberly Lewis' Studio 111 under artistic director Carrie Mathues since they were 8 years old.

Though the show aired May 29, it had been taped the previous week, allowing the girls to watch their performance for the first time with their families.

"My parents and my little brother and I were watching it in the [family room](#); we were cheering. I hadn't seen it before and I was pleased," Taylor said.

Kendall, older sister Lexie and younger sister Peyton, and her parents also tuned in for the show, now posted on YouTube.

"I've always wanted to be on Ellen, it was one of my goals and I'm so happy," said Kendall, who will enter eighth grade at Altadena Middle School in August.

Both girls were effusive in their praise and admiration of Kat Graham, the Swiss-born American actress who starred in the television series "Vampire Diaries," and also is a model, dancer and singer/songwriter whose grandfather was a U.N. ambassador.

"Kat was just great; she had a fun energy, she was thoughtful, helpful and focused," said Taylor, a Bogel Junior High eighth-grader. "For me, it was a thrill to dance with her, and the audience was really into the song. I loved it, too -- the beat was great, it was catchy and I couldn't get it out of my mind."

"It was just so much fun," said Kendall, who said the girls got to keep the handmade, abbreviated Girl Scout costumes they wore for the dance.

Though the rehearsal hours were long and the steps complicated, the pair said Kat Graham worked alongside them, helping and encouraging them through tricky moves like their pony tail whip-around. "She told us to just move our necks, not our bodies. I was surprised it didn't hurt, but it didn't," said Kendall, who is on the Altadena track and field teams and volleyball squad.

The day of the show's taping, the girls (and their mothers) were surprised to see Justin Bieber playing table tennis backstage while he waited for his segment to be taped. "We didn't even know who it was until he took off his hoodie," Kendall said. "We didn't talk a lot but he did said 'hi' to us."

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