

Lady Gaga dancer teaches class in Ahwatukee

by *Coty Dolores Miranda* - Feb. 8, 2012 09:20 AM
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Although 19-year-old Shelby Carr has been dancing for 16 years, the 90-minute advanced contemporary master class she took at Ahwatukee's Dance Studio 111 Saturday ranks among her most memorable.

That's because Lady Gaga dancer Sloan-Taylor Rabinor was the teacher.

"It was incredible. Sloan was very patient and let us experience the dances with our bodies. It wasn't rigid but very fluid," said Carr, who moved to Ahwatukee from the University of Colorado at Boulder three weeks ago to further her dance study at Studio 111. She plans to pursue dance as a career.



[Check out video of Rabinor dancing](#)

Rabinor, 23, was on her way to New York City to start preparing for the pop icon's second world tour and offered to teach an advanced class for her former dance teacher and Studio 111 owner Kimberly Lewis.

"I literally called her on Monday and said, 'I'll be in town Saturday. Would you like me to teach a class?' " said Rabinor, who took dance classes from Lewis starting at age 12. Her sister, Lauren-Beth, taught for Lewis when the 18-year-old Ahwatukee studio was the Kimberly Lewis Dance Studio.

"I took everything except for tap," Rabinor

recalled.

Her first actual dance teacher was her mother, Elvia Rabinor. "I was just 3 when my mom taught me ballet," she said.

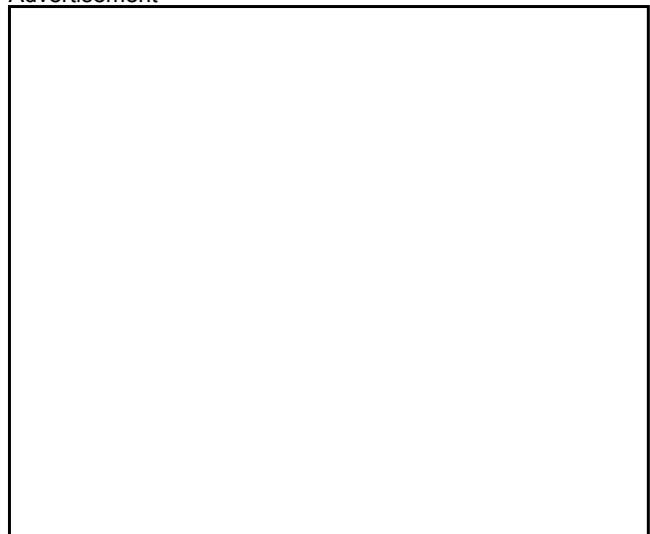
At age 17, Rabinor won a national dance competition that caught the eyes of top choreographers.

During her first year at Monmouth University, she traveled weekends, both performing and assisting choreographers.

She's been on the road since age 17, joining choreographers such as Brian Friedman and Emmy-nominated Laurieann Gibson, and working with artists like Beyonce Knowles, Mariah Carey and P.Diddy.

While living in Sherman Oaks, Calif., Rabinor auditioned to be a dancer for the 2009 Video Music Awards, where Gibson was head choreographer. It was her first appearance with Lady Gaga, who performed "Paparazzi." This dance didn't showcase Rabinor's talents -- she was pushed around the stage in a wheelchair -- but it did get her dancer foot in Gaga's door.

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Rabinor toured with the five-time Grammy winner Lady Gaga throughout the 2009-2011, 20-country "Monster Ball Tour."

"It was very intense, we literally went everywhere in the world for a year and a half," she said, listing countries like Denmark, the United Kingdom, Japan and Australia. "It was a life-changing experience and I still feel so lucky to be able to do what I love."

Though upcoming tour details remain wrapped in secrecy, Rabinor is one of 11 main dancers included in the singer's hand-selected creative team.

She has also danced on Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" and "Telephone" videos, and television shows like "Ellen," "Oprah," "America's Got Talent" with Nicki Minaj and with 2010 "X Factor" finalist singer Outasight. "Just to be on TV is so cool since my friends can see me dance."

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