

Diane Bell

"Glee 3D" movie showcases Mira Mesa preschooler

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So, why was 4-year-old Kellen Sarmiento walking the red carpet Saturday at the Hollywood premier of "Glee! The 3D Concert Movie," which opens in theaters Friday?

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The Warbler choir wannabe from Mira Mesa became a YouTube sensation last June when, wearing a mini red-trimmed navy suit made by his grandma, he parroted a choreographed performance from the hit TV series. Cast members tweeted to fans about the video, and soon Kellen was invited to L.A. by "Glee 3D" producers for an interview. The pint-size singer, nicknamed the Mini Warbler, not only appears briefly in the film and as the credits roll, he also pops up in a TV promo of the movie.

His dad, Mark Sarmiento, says, since age 2, Kellen has displayed a talent for quickly memorizing lyrics and dance steps. Back then, though, he was enthralled with the Black-Eyed Peas.

Although talent agents have called, Mark and his wife, Emily, still haven't decided in what direction, if any, to take their son's budding career.

With more than 2 million YouTube "hits" logged on the original posting (www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxuWSXwR4Mc) even before "Glee 3D" opens, they probably should wait and see. Kellen, aside from starting a fund for college, seems oblivious to his instant fame. He asks: "Daddy, why am I on TV?"

Seen and heard: On Friday, pop rocker Ryan Cabrera, actor Mario Lopez and swimmer Amanda Beard, a seven-time Olympic medalist, were spotted at a private BlogHer '11 party on Andaz San Diego's Ivy rooftop. No bathing suit for Beard this time. She wore a leopard print floor-length dress, and Cabrera sang...



Mini Warbler Kellen Sarmiento on the red carpet with "Glee 3D" cast member Chris Colfer. — Photo by Mark Sarmiento

Earlier, on the convention center floor, Rock on Mommies blogger Theresa Seid, along with blogger Mary Burt-Godwin, led a surprise flash mob performance by 100 or so mommy bloggers. While seemingly impromptu, the group had practiced their hip hop routine via virtual rehearsals on Upstream. “Three minutes later I crossed off an item on my bucket list,” reports Burt-Godwin, who is already planning her second flash mob performance some where in San Diego.

Christmas in August? The Parade of Lights on San Diego Bay takes place in December, so why were boats strutting their holiday displays last Saturday? The light show was at the request of ABC’s “Extreme Makeover Home Edition,” which is shooting an episode to air in December.

It features a family from Ohio that is vacationing in San Diego while their home is remodeled. With just three days’ notice, Parade of Lights Chairman Larry Baumann put together the festive procession. It floated by the dock of his Bali Hai restaurant, much to the surprise of diners and wedding reception guests.