

Meet Mesa guys who were almost the Katy Perry sharks



Monique Griego, 12 News 10:26 p.m. MST February 3, 2015

Dancers from MCC were chosen to perform with Katy Perry during the halftime show, but a last minute switch meant the original sharks, never got to take the stage.



(Photo: NFL)

With their flapping fins and questionable choreography, the Katy Perry sharks, more specifically the man dubbed the "Left Shark" stole the show during Sunday's Super Bowl halftime performance.

The dancers blew up the internet, but now new information reveals, they only suited up, after a last minute switch.

The original sharks were Larry Eddy and Emigdio Arredondo, dancers from the Mesa Community College Dance Company. "I was pretty excited to be honest. I was like, oh wow, I'm going to be able to do this," said Eddy after a dance practice at MCC.

The group submitted an audition tape to Perry's team after their program director received a surprising call.



Eddy & Arredondo pose with 12News reporter Monique Griego. Feb 3. 2015 (Photo: Nick Perez)

"I got an email and a call from a casting director in New York," said Tina Rangel, the dance company's program director. "At first I thought it was a joke. I didn't know if it was really legitimate, but it was," she said.

That's when the whirlwind began. Within a few weeks, several members were picked to play props for the halftime show. "They just said you're going to be sharks," said Arredondo, "and we still didn't know that the sharks danced a lot."

Sharks, palm trees and surfboards. Soon, the guys and a few other members were in Glendale, practicing with a Katy Perry stand-in. "She was playing Katy," Arredondo said. "So it was exciting to know that she was going to be right in front of us."

Then, the Wednesday before the game, showbiz, took a bite out of their dreams. "They pulled us aside and said she (Katy Perry) felt she would be more comfortable if she used her dancers for that part," Arredondo said.

"I was disappointed," Eddy said. "I was sad. At first I didn't know how to react," he said.

Disappointed, but definitely not bitter. The guys still got to help with production and be there, on the field, for the show. "I wasn't going to ruin the experience that I had to do the Super Bowl," Eddy said.



Dancers cast in Katy Perry halftime show, recreate performance. Feb 1. 2015 (Photo: Monique Griego)

So what were the shark's dance moves supposed to look like? Arredondo and Eddy showed 12 News with the help of their friend, Xavier Patten, who was able to perform as the pink surfboard. Patten stood in as the singer.

"You know, we were part of whole experience," said Arredondo, "we just didn't get to perform."

And both sharks made it very clear. They have no hard feelings towards Katy Perry and were just happy to be there.

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