

# JAMES FRANCO

super squirrel



*by Generalissimo Bullwinkle*

“Palo Alto and its surrounding areas are some of the wealthiest in the country. They are the living grounds for all the dukes of Silicon Valley. Steve Jobs’ daughter and the grandson of Hewlett-Packard were both in my graduating class .. I [grew] up among the children of the world shapers.” - *James Franco describing his childhood years in Palo Alto, CA* ([Source](#))

At a surprisingly young age, Franco had already established himself as one of the most obnoxious people in Hollywood—and that, of course, is already saying a lot. But here, we will see that is only the tip of the iceberg. In this essay, we’ll see that Franco’s father **Douglas Franco** graduated from Stanford and Harvard, and worked for a top **defense contractor** in Silicon Valley. Through him, the Franco line goes back to Portugal’s Madeira islands, where we’ll link him with a pair of Franco brothers who were famous artists in the employ of Portuguese nobility and fascist ruler **Antonio Salazar**. We’ll further learn about Madeira, and its role as a strategically situated free-trade zone that helped enrich Portuguese and British merchants for hundreds of years.

The Madeiran Franco brothers are then linked with the shadowy **Sousa Group**, a 100-year-old shipping, logistics, and energy conglomerate that is “**the largest Portuguese shipowner**.” The story comes full circle as it emerges Douglas Franco spent the latter years of his life working with a top military lab on a high-tech security system for **cargo ships** called **SecureBox**.

James Franco is thus revealed to be the scion of a wealthy and highly-connected Silicon Valley operator who comes from a line of wealthy shipping magnates. In this context, we'll take a deeper look at James Franco's notorious eccentricities, including his supposed enrollment in four master's programs at once, his bizarre art projects like the "[Museum of Non-Visible Art](#)," and his various sexual assault controversies.

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James Franco, in his own words, [grew up](#) “five blocks away from where Steve Jobs lived.” He’s pictured on the right with his favorite high school teacher, **Esther Wojcicki**. Esther has taught media and journalism at Palo Alto High since 1984. Her daughter [Susan](#) is [YouTube’s CEO](#) and her other daughter **Anne** runs the genomics company **23AndMe**.

According to Wikipedia, [Google was started in Susan Wojcicki’s garage](#), as she apparently rented the space to Larry Page and Sergey Brin during the company’s first year. Susan was hired as Google’s 16th employee, and her sister Anne married Sergey Brin in 2007 (divorced in 2015). Anne is now worth **\$690 million**, according to Wiki.

Esther’s husband **Stanley Wojcicki** has twice headed Stanford’s physics department and worked at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which gave birth to [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#). It is at this lab where James Franco’s father was working on **SecureBox**. In a newsletter, the lab mentions SecureBox updates on the progress their team was making on SecureBox:

If an intrusion is detected, SecureBox transmits encrypted data through various communication modes to alert authorized individuals of the breach. The device’s communication system can transmit data up to 122 meters and works effectively even when a container is buried in a stack of other containers or located deep within the hold of a ship.

We’ll see soon why it makes all the sense in the world that Douglas Franco was working on a security system for cargo ships in conjunction with a national security lab (his family’s been in the shipping business for generations).

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**James Franco** has two younger brothers. The three boys were raised by Douglas and Betsy Franco, who met in a drawing class while undergrads at Stanford University. The brothers and their mom are depicted as artsy and eccentric. James’ father Doug Franco had a love of drawing, but he didn’t pursue art professionally. Rather, Wiki vaguely [mentions](#) the elder Franco “ran a Silicon Valley business” and was “a philanthropic entrepreneur.” Further research reveals Doug Franco graduated from top-ranked [New Trier High School](#) in the Chicago suburbs, earned a B.S. in Math from Stanford, and topped it all off with a Harvard MBA. That’s quite a resume,

and also quite a STEM background for a guy who went on to raise what *Vanity Fair* [calls](#) a “famously bohemian family.” For more on New Trier, see Miles' [paper on Karl Marx](#).

Early in his career, **Douglas Franco** worked for top Silicon Valley companies including Xerox and HP, before settling down at **Rolm Corporation**. Rolm Corp. produced advanced computer systems and communications equipment for the military. Wiki notes Rolm was so close with the government in the 80s that “all product-pricing [had] to be negotiated directly with the DoD.” Rolm was ultimately sold to **Lockheed Martin** in the 90’s under the name Tactical Defense Systems. Years later, a young James Franco spent a summer interning at Lockheed Martin. Wiki says he got the internship because he was a “math whiz,” though his father clearly had connections. We have never seen any other indications of James' math wizardry.

According to Wiki, Douglas Franco was “of **Portuguese (from Madeira)** and Swedish ancestry.” Madeira is a small island in the Atlantic Ocean, located six hundred miles off the Portuguese coast (marked in red on the right). [A Geni](#) search confirms James Franco’s great grandfather was **Daniel Franco** born on this small island in 1887.



Madeira [had around](#) 130,000 inhabitants in 1891, comparable to the present size of Stamford, CT. I googled “Franco Madeira” and two more Franco brothers - also artists - surfaced. The brothers were born on Madeira and lived there off and on during the early and mid 20th-century.

The best known of the brothers is **Francisco Franco de Sousa**. Francisco was a renowned sculptor, and his brother **Henrique Franco De Sousa** was a painter. Note, the surname “Sousa” is a major red flag and links us to the Portuguese [House of Sousa](#) and [Dukes of Palmema](#). The first Portuguese Prime Minister in 1834 was **Pedro de Sousa Holstein**, and since then 10 more [Prime Ministers](#) have had Sousa in their surname. Interestingly, the 47th Portuguese Prime Minister (from 1906-1908) was [João Franco](#). Look at the Geni page again for Daniel Franco (James’ great grandfather) and you’ll see *his* father is listed as João Franco. I can’t confirm the two are the same, but it’s a strange coincidence, especially since the Prime Minister Franco assumed [dictatorial powers](#) for a time and was pretty consequential in Portuguese history.

Back to the Franco brothers. They studied at the University of Lisbon’s School of Fine Arts, and with teachers in Paris. They attended various salons and museum showings across Europe, but would return to Madeira as World War I broke out. Could these brothers be related to **Daniel Franco** - James’ great grandfather? It seems quite likely, perhaps as first or second cousins, and this would explain the present-day Franco clan’s much-publicized passion for the arts. It would also explain why James Franco’s mother penned a [novel](#) about the ghost of Rodin’s lover (Francisco often cited Rodin as his main influence), and why Francisco looks so similar to the modern Francos.

**Francisco Franco - Portuguese sculptor in the 1920s-1950s**



**James Franco - Hollywood actor**



Notice the match on the eyes, the eyebrows, the nose, and the dark wavy hair. [Francisco Franco de Sousa](#) lived from 1885-1955. Incredibly, Francisco was for much of his career the personal sculptor of Portugal's dictator, **António de Oliveira Salazar**. He sculpted a noted statue of the leader, and his [other works](#) were almost exclusively done on commission for the government and nobility. I've provided some pictures below, along with brief commentary.



*Francisco's statue of Portuguese dictator Antonio Salazar in academic robes on display at the Paris International Exhibition in 1937.*



*Francisco's statue of João Gonçalves, the Portuguese nobleman who discovered Madeira island in 1419. The monument is located in a central square of Madeira's capital city and is a prominent tourist destination.*



*Vila Viçosa is the ancestral seat of the House of Braganza, which ruled Portugal from 1640-1910. Franco completed the equestrian statue in front, which depicts 17th-century Portuguese King John IV, in 1940.*



*Not quite Francisco. James Franco and his brother Tom (pictured) recently created an exhibit called “The Pipe Brothers,” which consists of carved and painted sewer pipes. This is the first of many art projects we’ll see from James Franco that are basically designed to troll the public.*

I’ll take an interlude here to address the question that’s undoubtedly on many readers’ minds: is Francisco Franco de Sousa related to Francisco Franco the dictator of Spain? This seems like an obvious connection, though I researched it thoroughly and didn’t find any smoking guns. Francisco Franco the dictator was born to a naval family in Ferrol, a city on Spain’s Northern coast. Ferrol is considered the best natural seaport in Europe, and the Franco’s were aristocrats who served in the Spanish navy going back six generations. I would bet they link up with the Franco de Sousa line at some point, but the connection wouldn’t be meaningful in this essay (Miles please correct me if you find something else).

I did find plenty of other interesting info about Francisco Franco, however. His grandchildren are still around today, and are some of the richest people in Spain. They’ve all intermarried with the top blue bloods in Europe. Franco deserves his own paper, so I’ll come back to him another time.

**Miles: I intuit James Franco IS related to Francisco Franco, but we will leave the question open for now. My guess is that one of my readers or I will be able to dig something up.**

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So, after a couple flops in the movie business, James decided to go back to school to earn his undergraduate degree from UCLA. During this second stint at UCLA, he was mentored by **Mona Simpson, who is Steve Jobs’ sister** and a UCLA professor. To make up for the three years of college he missed, Franco incredibly “received permission to take as many as 62 course credits per quarter compared to the normal limit of 19, while still continuing to act.” This

is of course absurd and was just the beginning of a trend of Franco taking on impossibly onerous academic commitments while receiving much media attention for doing so. Not satisfied with just a bachelor's degree, however, Franco went back to grad school the following year. According to Wikipedia and other outlets, he enrolled in four graduate programs *at the same time*.

Franco moved to New York to simultaneously attend graduate school at Columbia University School of the Arts for writing, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts for filmmaking, and Brooklyn College for fiction writing, while also attending the low-residency MFA Program for Writers at North Carolina's Warren Wilson College for poetry. He received his M.F.A. from Columbia in 2010. As of 2010, Franco was studying in the Ph.D. program in English at Yale University. He has also attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

He also starred in multiple Hollywood movies between 2010 and 2012, including *127 Hours* and *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*. One graduate program is grueling on its own; four at the same time while shooting movies is absurd and suggests he was participating in some type of marketing program for these universities in return in return for academic credentials.

Indeed, this is what's being alleged by former NYU Professor Jose Angel Santana, who [sued](#) Franco after giving the actor a 'D' and later being fired. The professor notes Franco didn't show up to 12 of 14 classes, and had a poor attendance record in other courses as well, but received good grades in return for collaborating with faculty on their pet film projects. Franco [admits](#) to skipping the classes, and has publicly called the professor "a bad teacher."

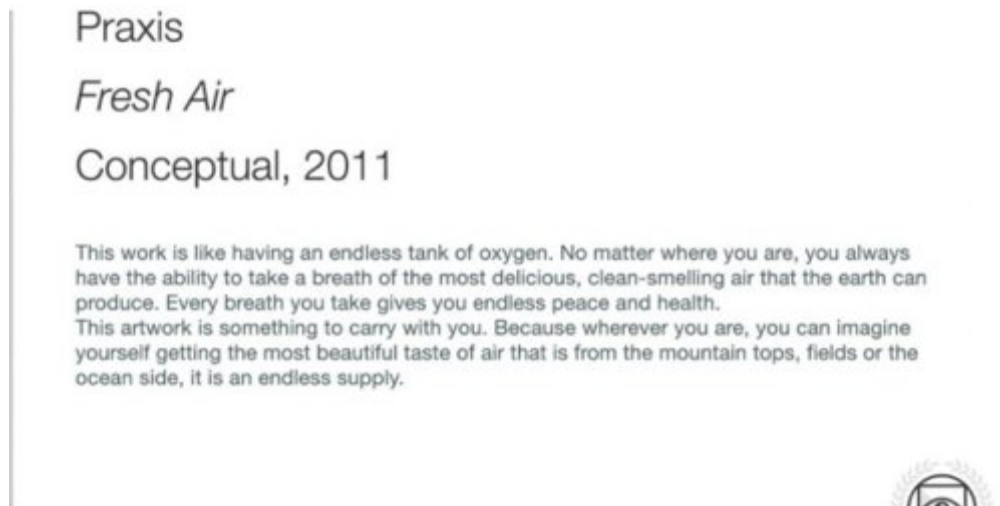
When Franco did show up to campus, he didn't appear to bring his A-game (the photo on the right was taken by a student at Columbia). Further calling into question Franco's time spent at these graduate programs is a film he produced for his "thesis" at NYU, which apparently was [heavy](#) on [male nudity](#). According to the [Huffington Post](#), the film "pretty much had no plot and featured men in clown masks, men in dog masks, and shots of male genitalia urinating."



Speaking of bad teachers, Franco opened a short-lived acting and filmmaking school in LA and New York called **Studio 4**. The school closed after numerous sexual assault allegations surfaced against Franco. Oh, and he got caught arranging a [hook up](#) with a 17-year old girl. [Miles: since Franco is likely gay, I suspect these stories were manufactured to make him seem straight. The allegations at the school were that he tried to film people in sex scenes, not that he had sex with them himself. And although he was allegedly arrested for talking to underage girl\(s\), he was never charged or convicted. I have seen no reports that the claims were ever followed up on. More indication of that is that with the school allegations, the complaints were from a 33-page report. The #MeToo claims against him look manufactured as well, and my guess is he agreed to be part of that project, as many others have: playing the bad guy, knowing he will never be convicted, and knowing he can be whitewashed later.](#)

Franco further has a long history of troll-type art projects. For example, he co-founded the Museum of Non-Visible Art, which - I kid you not - sells artwork that only exists in your

imagination. Supposedly, [a woman paid \\$10,000](#) for one of their “pieces” which is nothing more than a framed card (see below) with a couple sentences describing fresh air.



One of James Franco's heroes is the occultist and filmmaker **Kenneth Anger**. Anger practices Aleister Crowley's Thelema religion and is generally a walking red flag. He made an appearance in [Miles' expose of the Tate Murders](#), where he was outed as a spook. He's been associated with a long list of countercultural and Hollywood types including The Rolling Stones, Jimmy Page, and Antony LaVey. Franco cast Anger as an occult priest who performs a bizarre ritual in a semi-pornographic [music video](#) he directed.

Did all of those masters degrees in creative writing pay off for Franco? Judging by the absurd poetry books he's published, definitely not in terms of quality. One is a book of poems entitled *Straight James / Gay James*. **The title alone all but proves he is gay, since no straight guy would ever name a book that.**

Back to the history part of the essay. **Francisco Franco de Sousa** links us with the Madeira-based shipping conglomerate **Sousa Group** mentioned at the beginning of this essay. How can I make this connection? Well, the sculptor and the group share a surname and an island location for starters. The Sousa Group also recently funded a multipart [docuseries](#) series on the Franco brothers' art. The Sousa Group dates back to 1909, so it was around when the two Franco brothers were prominent artists. It seems pretty clear the brothers were part of this



wealthy Sousa family. This explains how they were able to afford their education and European travels, and why Francisco was selected as an official government sculptor who produced so many works for Portuguese leaders and nobility. It further explains why a museum dedicated to the brothers is practically next door to the Sousa group offices on Madeira island. Also, the Sousa Group has over 800 employees, owns the largest [container ship](#) in Portugal, and is active in the

tourism and hospitality industries. Indeed, if you google translate [this](#) article, you'll see the Sousa Group's current president **Luis Miguel Sousa** is referred to in Portuguese media as the "owner" and "lord" of Madeira. The group operates ports and logistics terminals up and down the Portuguese coast and outlying islands, possibly linking it to the Phoenician Navy if we go back far enough.

Luis Miguel Sousa notes 70% of his group's business takes place outside of Madeira. Why, then, does such a lucrative business choose to be headquartered on an island way out in the Atlantic? Answer: Madeira is a semi-autonomous free trade zone. It has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in Europe and its International Shipping Registry has grown to be one of the largest in Europe by offering "benefits to shipping companies." Moreover, Madeira's location is highly strategic and it historically had an excellent climate for wine production:

Ships put in at Madeira to take on fresh provisions and to pick up Madeira wine. This geographical position also gave the island strategic importance to the Royal Navy. This was supported by the long history of political alliances between Britain and Portugal .. Portugal gained support in preserving her independence while the Royal Navy could access servicing ports on both the Iberian mainland and on Atlantic islands. In turn, Madeira came to occupy an important part in linking existing European patterns of trade with the new opportunities offered by the Americas and India. ([Source](#))

Indeed, the British were heavily involved in Madeira dating back to the 18th century when they established dozens of trading houses on the island and dominated the lucrative Madeira wine trade. Many British nobles have visited over the years, including Winston Churchill.



*Churchill paints Funchal bay while vacationing on Madeira island, 1950*

The location is no less strategic in the 20th century. NATO maintains an air force base there and Air Force General Larry Wright [remarked](#), "Whoever controls the Azores [the island chain including Madeira] controls the Atlantic."