

Hey guys, so today I'm going to be doing the "draw my life" video,

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which is basically me drawing my life!

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Really crappy, because I am not an artist.

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I thought it would be really cool if I shared with you guys my story, so let's get started.

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So my name is Joseph Michael Graceffa

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and I was born May 16th 1991

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and I remember I hated my name growing up,

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I think I had my parents call me Cody for a week,

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but I hate it, so I made them call me Joey again.

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When I was brought into this world, my family consisted of my dad, my mom, and my sister Nicole, who is five years older than me,

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and then of course me!

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When I was really young my parents got divorced,

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so... It didn't really affect me because I didn't really know of anything else.

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So, it was just me, my mom, and my sister for the majority of the beginning of my life

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and my mom was the most loving mom I could ask for.

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I remember she put me on her hip and we danced around the living room listening to music.

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I was such a mama's boy, like whenever my mom would go out at night and she wouldn't come home till late

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the babysitter would have to give me her picture for me to be able to fall asleep,

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so, yep! Mama's boy alert!

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My, my sister and mom lived in a really old apartment complex growing up

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and some paint chips had fallen off the window and got on my toys

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and me being the child I was decided to eat the chips

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and it gave me a lead poisoning which ended up causing me to have a learning disability

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and I spent most of my school life in special education classes.

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I lived just with my mom and my sister for a few years

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I just looked up to my sister so much, she was my role model

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and she was the coolest person ever and I wanted to be just like her

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so I would do what she would do, like wear dresses and play with dolls,

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but this ended up getting me teased a lot by my cousins and they called me "Josephina"

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which really hurt my feelings.

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I also had a pretty tough time at school

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I mostly only hung out with girls because it's who I felt most comfortable

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and a lot of guys would make fun of me, call me "gay" or "faggot", or call me a girl

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and this made it really hard for me to make friends with guys for most of my life

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because I just figured that they are all mean.

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When I was five years old, my mom met my step-dad Bob who I actually called "the Chinese man"

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because he would always bring over Chinese food for dinner, even though he wasn't Chinese.

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But he became one of my biggest role models and taught me that anything in life is possible as long as I work hard enough.

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When I was seven years old I actually fell off my bunk bed and cracked my head open

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because I was trying to bring my two little kittens to the top bunk in a blanket

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and I dropped the blanket on the way up

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and in attempt to save them, I fell off the top bunk and landed on my head, on a bird house that I created.

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I just remember reaching up and feeling the blood come on my head and I started screaming

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and my parents rushed me to the hospital and I got five staples in my head

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and for me being a good boy I got two Pokémon booster packs and one of them actually had a Charizard in it

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so, yeah, I know. It's a really good Charizard, isn't it? [laughs]

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But I guess it was worth getting my head cracked open, right?

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No, it freakin' hurt.

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At 12 years old, my mom started heavily drinking and soon became an alcoholic.

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which was really hard growing up because I didn't feel like I had a mom that I

could rely on.

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My mom and my step dad's relationship wasn't doing that well and they decided to separate

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so they sold the house and once again it was just me, my sister and my mom,

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and my sister and my mom got into some pretty heated arguments on almost every single day

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because my mom was drinking

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so my sister decided to move out and live with my dad.

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My dad was definitely very hard on me growing up,

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he didn't like that my only friends were girls and he wanted me to be more of a masculine son

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but when I got into 8th grade I think he just gave up and finally accepted me for who I was

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and he's also my biggest fan now and I can tell that he is very proud of me.

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In 8th grade, I wanted to become an actor, so I auditioned for my high school play

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and I actually ended up getting the lead role

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and this was definitely one of my favorite memories of high school.

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When I was 15, my mom and step dad's relationship started getting better and my step dad moved in

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and my mom sobered up for two years.

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And then they had a baby named Jed and I was super excited because I'd always wanted a younger sibling

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that I could boss around and tell them what to do.

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But as time progressed, he was diagnosed with a form of autism

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which meant that he wasn't able to communicate with us verbally

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which of course has been really hard because I know he would say some of the

craziest and funniest things

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In my first year of high school I met a girl named Britney Joel

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and we became best friends immediately

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we just had so much fun together and we clicked so well.

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We would hang out every single weekend and play video games

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and we would annoy the crap out of people on Call of Duty Xbox LIVE

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because we would sing Aly & AJ and Jonas Brothers' songs

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and we called ourselves DJ Joey and DJ Britney. People hated us.

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At 16 years old, we decided to start a YouTube channel called WinterSpringPro and just made little sketches

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and tried to build up an audience, and it eventually started taking off

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and after a few months we became YouTube Partners,



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which meant that we could start making money on our videos.

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College time came around and I really wanted to major in film,

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so I applied to my dream school Emerson and ... was denied.

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I was so heartbroken but I ended up going to the stupid crusty state school

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and I was so miserable. I became very lonely and the most depressed I think I've ever been in my life.

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But I found my comfort in YouTube and the majority of my friends were online friends.

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So I decided to drop out of college.

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When I turned 19, I decided to move to L.A. and follow my dream of being an actor and

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and make YouTube a full-time job, also to escape my mother who had now been drinking heavily again.

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So Britney and I packed up her car and drove cross country from Boston to Los

Angeles for four days straight.

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When we arrived in L.A., we made a ton of YouTube friends and I immediately felt like I belonged in

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I now have the best group of friends that I could ever ask for.

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They all accept me for who I am and I don't feel like I have to be anyone but me.

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After living in L.A. for a year, I decided to branch off from WinterSpringPro and start my Joey Graceffa channel.

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and eventually made the decision to vlog every single day

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I worked really hard and was really passionate about YouTube again

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and I started getting recognition and had a really cool story that got me noticed by the TV show "The Amazing Race".

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which has seriously been the coolest experience of my life.

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Today I'm still making videos on a daily basis and trying to make my dreams of being an actor come true.

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Although I went through a lot of struggles in my life growing up,

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it's made me into the person I am today.

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I know that this is just the beginning of an even more epic journey ahead of me

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and I want to thank you guys so much for supporting me

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and if there's anything that I want you guys to take from this video

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it's that you don't have to be a victim of your environment

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and just know that life gets so much better

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and you can truly achieve anything in life as long as you work hard enough.

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So yeah, keep your head up and no dream is too crazy!

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So, yeah, I love you guys, thank you so much for supporting me

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and I will see you guys tomorrow!

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May the odds be ever in your favor!

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Good bye!