The first time I saw a full psychedelic light show was in the summer of 1967 at The Ambassador Theatre in Washington, DC. It was fantastic! A group of light show artists from San Francisco had been hired to set up an elaborate light show at this huge vaudeville movie theatre. All the seats had been removed and a stage had been built on a stage-like platform. The photo at the top of the page shows part of the whole light show. The whole set was created on a small pad of mirrors that I could hold in my hands and control the motion with the music. (Imagine taking the small square mirrors off of a mirrored ball and gluing them onto a foam rubber pad.) I began to develop techniques which allowed me to visually interpret the music with a surprisingly high degree of control. It was like playing along with the music in light and colour. But it was just something I would do for fun, to entertain friends. However, some of the basic techniques that I developed were a precursor to the more sophisticated visuals that I would later achieve with laser scanning.

In high school I attended St. Stephens college preparatory school. I grew tired of the type of bands that were being hired for our school dances, and I decided the situation I joined the student organisation that selected bands - it was actually called The Hop Committee! So in 1967 I was able to persuade other members of the committee to hire a particularly good band called Decembrer’s Children (who were somewhat modelled after The Fallen Angels and even covered some of their songs in their sets). After deciding on the band, the next question was how to decorate the actual show. When I was in high school I attended a preparatory school. I grew tired of the types of bands that were being hired for our school dances, and I decided the situation I joined the student organisation that selected bands - it was actually called The Hop Committee! So in 1967 I was able to persuade other members of the committee to hire a particularly good band called Decembrer’s Children (who were somewhat modelled after The Fallen Angels and even covered some of their songs in their sets). After deciding on the band, the next question was how to decorate the actual show.

For more on Doug’s pioneering adventures in light and sound, visit www.lasershowdesign.com