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## Montreal multimedia guru tackles first kids show: the Doodlebops

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Victoria Ahearn, THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO - Montreal multimedia maestro Daniel Angers has created some dazzling technical effects over his 30-year career, projecting giant videos and images onto the ice at NHL games and onto the facades of buildings.

But when asked to mount a similar presentation for a trio of pink, orange and blue rockers and their preschooler fans, he was nearly stumped.

"To a certain extent, it's more difficult because you're not a two-year-old," said Angers, who has created a giant three-screen panoramic video for "The Doodlebops: Together Forever Tour" tour that kicks off Wednesday in Peterborough, Ont.

"In my case, I'm a 51-year-old, so it's trying to put yourself in the shoes of a two year old and trying to blow them away and trying to show them stuff that are going to keep them amazed."

Angers, owner of multimedia presentation company Dangers, was asked by Koba Entertainment last fall to add his technical prowess to the Doodlebops tour that will hit 52 cities across the country, with colourful rock-star siblings Deedee, Rooney and Moe Doodle from the hit Canadian kids' TV show.

He'd never done a kids' show before but accepted the job so that his two-year-old daughter would finally get a sense of "what daddy does."

Little Sofia was his main creative consultant, he said.

"What she does when she wants 'again, again,' she kind of hits her palms together and on a couple of songs she kept, 'again, again' - she wanted to see it again - so I know we've hit the target," said Angers, one of just a handful of people working in what he calls the "niche market" of giant projections in North America.

"I don't want to take away from the actors - it's a whole show - but I know that the visuals on those screens, the kids are definitely going to be attracted to them. There's no two ways about it."

Angers uses massive projectors controlled by media servers to beam the video onto three massive split screens. He created the presentation using the graphic designs of his longtime collaborator, Luc Lavergne, a multimedia guru with Cirque du Soleil.

The video presentation, which will screen beside the stage while the Doodlebops are playing, offers "state-of-the-art technology," said Angers.

"Kids' shows usually - I don't know if it's budgets, I'm new with kids' show - but I think in the past people would (think): 'Oh, it's a kids' show, we don't have to put a lot of money on something, or it doesn't have to be great,'" said Angers, who has done similar large-scale projections at the Juno Awards, the NCAA tournament and various corporate gigs.

"Whereas now it's more: 'Yeah, let's make it great.'

"The fact that it's a kids' show or it's not a kids' show, the technology's there - let's use it, let's have fun with it, let's blow 'em away."

Adults will also be struck by the show, said Koba Entertainment artistic director Patti Caplette.

"The show is non-stop rock and non-stop dance so the kids will be bopping but ... jeeppers, mom and dad are really going to appreciate the physicality and the tricks and all that just like you'd see on 'So You Think You Can Dance' or things like that," she said.

"It's not pandered down."