



# Arabesque





Arabesque was founded in 2008 by choreographer Nguyễn Tấn Lộc as the very first private neo-classical and contemporary dance company in Hồ Chí Minh City, Việt Nam.

Since that time, the company has focused on the training and development of professional dancers and the creation of a conducive and inspirational environment for professional choreographers to devise unique and original dance works.

Arabesque's dance movements are a mixture of both classical and modern, fused to create its own special dance language which presents aspects of Vietnamese culture in a uniquely modern style.

Currently, the activities of Arabesque include:

- **Productions** – *The Story of the Shoes* (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012), *Mộc* (2010, 2011, 2012), *The Mist* (2011, 2012, 2013).
- **Touring** – We have participated in the International Dance Festival and Cultural Exchange Singapore 2009 (*Charming Vietnam*), London, England 2010 (*Charming Vietnam*), Daegu, Korea 2011 (*The Mist*), Daegu, Korea 2012 (*Mộc*) and Australia, Japan...
- **Open Stage** – a playground for those who are interested in and passionate about art, devised with a view to inspiring and enhancing individual creativity in all artistic fields. It's also the place to participate and experiment, to learn and discuss, to share and exchange your own experiences.
- **Support for young local artists** – to stimulate new creativity and challenge young artists to prepare themselves for competitions both in Việt Nam and abroad.

In 2011 and 2012, three of Arabesque's dancers were awarded Bronze and Silver Awards at the International Dance Competition in Seoul, Korea, while in 2012, a young Arabesque choreographer won the Best Choreographer Award at the International Dance Competition in Seoul, Korea.



## **Nguyen Tan Loc** **Director and Choreographer**

Director and Choreographer Nguyen Tan Loc has always been passionate about arts and culture, in particular traditional Vietnamese culture and the dance forms associated with it. He has devoted his life to exploring the language of dance in all its variations, searching for an approach which successfully combines elements of traditional and contemporary artistic expression.

After graduating from the Hochiminh City School of Culture and Arts in 1988, Tan Loc was awarded scholarships to study and grow his artistic knowledge at the Japan Dance School in Kawasaki, at the Fujisato Ballet Studio in Tokyo and with Schaubühne in Berlin.

Returning home, Tan Loc determined to make a practical contribution to the art of dance in Vietnam, quickly making a name for himself as a young choreographer who was not afraid to stand up and challenge conventional thinking, a director who dared to experiment with bold new orientations on stage, both at home and abroad.

In 2008, bringing together a group of talented young dancers who shared his spiritual values and creative passion, Tan Loc founded the Arabesque dance company, a vehicle for the development of a contemporary dance language which draws on the aesthetics of traditional dance and classical ballet to create innovative new works. Since that time, Arabesque has presented a selection of memorable productions – *The Story of the Shoes*, *Mộc*, *The Mist*, *Mon Village* and *A O* – which give new insight into the traditional culture of Vietnam.

In addition to his onstage achievements, Tan Loc has always been a source of motivation, inspiration and practical support to young artists striving to build a career in dance, and in this way he has made an important contribution to the development of the dance sector in Vietnam. He regularly invites visiting dance practitioners to the Arabesque studio to share their art, ideas and sources of inspiration. He has done a great deal to raise the profile of Vietnamese dance on the international stage, facilitating exchange programmes and encouraging the participation of talented young Vietnamese dancers and choreographers in overseas dance competitions and festivals. In particular, since 2011, he has facilitated and led groups of young dancers to the International Modern Dance Competition in Korea. Most recently he has received four awards in two consecutive years.



### **Emeritus Artist Ngo Thuy To Nhu**

To Nhu has a long and distinguished career in dance which began in 1992 when she graduated in Ballet from the Kiev National Dance School in Ukraine.

Considered one of the leading female ballet artists in Vietnam. Nhu has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as ballerina soloist with the October Ballet Company and the Hochiminh City Ballet, Symphony Orchestra and Opera company and as a ballet teacher at the Hochiminh City Dance School.

In her current capacity as Ballet Mistress with the Arabesque Dance Company she works as a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer for the company.

Nhu has performed principal roles in numerous classical ballet works, including Giselle in Giselle, Odette in Swan Lake and Medora in Le Corsaire, the Pas de deux Kitri and Basil from Act 1, Act 3 of Don Quixote... In recent years Nhu has also collaborated on several contemporary Vietnamese choreographies, including The Mist, Mộng and The Story of the Shoes.

Nhu has worked extensively overseas, participating in many exchanges and festivals. In 1995 she performed in the Children's Art Festival in Bangkok, Thailand. Then in the following year she spent three months as guest artist with the National Capital Dancers in Canberra, Australia. In 2000 she attended the Vietnamese Spring Festival in Grenoble, France, where she worked and performed with French choreographer Sylvie Guillermin. In 2002 she participated in a cultural exchange programme in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and in 2003 she attended the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Main, United States. In 2008 she participated in a cultural exchange programme in Kawasaki, Japan.

Nhu's many awards include nomination in 1997 as one of the "Top Ten Talented Artist of HochiminhCity," a 2004 Award in the National Art Festival of Art Schools, a 2008 Certificate of the Hochiminh People's Committee for Achievements and Participations in Arts and Culture Activities in Hồ Chí Minh City, and a 2008 Award of the Vietnam Dance Association for High Quality of Professional Ballet Training. In 2012 she received the great honour of the title Meritorious Artist from the President of Vietnam.

Nhu also has a Diploma in Dance Teaching from the Military University (2011) and a Bachelor in English Linguistics and Literature from the Hochiminh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

## **Arabesque choreographers**



### **Ngo Thanh Phuong**

Phuong works with Arabesque as a choreographer and is also the founder of the Open Stage Project. She also teaches dance at the the Hochiminh City Dance School. She graduated in 1999 from the Hochiminh City Dance School in Vietnam and 2008 from the Folkwang Hochschule (Folkwang Academy) in Essen, Germany.

Phuong has worked with many leading choreographers, including Mark Ziekarek, Rodolpho Leoni, Stephan Brinkmann and Ea Sola. She has choreographed the works Sorry,thanks,and sorry..., Pair of shoes and Circle of time for the Hochiminh City Ballet, Symphony Orchestra and Opera and also participated in the creation of experimental choreographies in the context of the Open Stage Project, such as 18 and P.I.N.

In 2012 Phuong received the Best Choreography Award at the International Modern Dance competition in Korea and in at the same year she received a grant for her experimental choreography Erasable from the Danish Cultural Development and Exchange Fund (CDEF).

# Guest choreographers



## Vu Ngoc Khai

Khai is a professional dancer and choreographer who has studied and worked in Việt Nam and Europe. After graduating from a seven-year course majoring in Ballet (1997-2004), he gained a full scholarship from the Netherlands Consulate General in 2006 to study at the Rotterdam Dance Academy and also gained a scholarship from this company to take a special course focusing on the training of dancers and choreographers.

Khai has performed with Hochiminh City Ballet, Symphony Orchestra and Opera, DanceWorks Rotterdam, Venture Dance Company and Staatstheater am Gartnerplatz Munich, touring to many countries including the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. He has appeared in festivals in Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Japan and Indonesia and also participated in an International AIDS Gala in Regensburg, Munich, Germany.

His recent choreographic work includes Leaving home (2009), Dream, Image (2010), The Mist (2011, co-choreography) and Moving Breath (2012).



## John Huy Tran (JHT)

A Canadian dance professional with a background in fitness, martial arts and gymnastics, JHT has over 15 years experience of performing, choreographing and teaching dance and currently works at Dancenter Vietnam. His biggest accomplishment to date is The Spotlight; a Broadway musical dance show featuring UDG (Urban Dance Group).

JHT studied at National Dance Canada and at the Randolph Academy. He has been involved with companies such as Mirvish Productions (The Lion King), Cirque du Soleil, MAC Cosmetics and many more. He has worked and performed with leading artists such as Cher, David Usher and Sarah Brightman, to name but a few.

JHT is a professional judge, choreographer (performances and music videos) and performance advisor for popular TV shows such as: So You Think You Can Dance Vietnam (Dance Producer, Judge, Choreographer), Vietnam Idol (Choreographer), Bước nhảy xì tin (Judge), Vietnam's Got Talent (Performance Advisor) and Saigon Sports Academy and has recently been appointed as one of the ambassadors for YanTV. Other productions include Charming Vietnam Gala, HTV Awards 2012 and Việt Nam's first Broadway Musical, Annie Get Your Gun.

Since moving to Việt Nam, JHT has worked in collaboration with Arabesque on the production Story of the Shoes.

# Arabesque dancers



**Ngo Thuy To Nhu**

Graduated from the Kiev National Dance School in 1992, since 2009 she's teacher, dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Huynh Truc Giang**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 1994, since 2009 she's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Pham Duong Quynh Ly**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2007, since 2009 she's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Do Thi Hai Anh**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2008, since 2009 she's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company, got Silver prize in 2012 at the International Modern Dance in Seoul, Korea.



**Pham Mai Thao**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2008, and since 2012 she's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Doan Vu Minh Thu**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 1994, since 2009 she's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Huynh Truc Phuong**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2009, since 2012 she's dancer of Arabesque dance company.



**Vu Ngoc Khai**

Graduated from Vietnam Dance school in 2004. He was a dancer of HCMC Ballet and Symphony Theater, DanceWorks Rotterdam company, Staatstheater am Gartnerplatz Munichs. Since 2011 he's dancer of Arabesque dance company.



**Nguyen Hoang Tuan**

Trained by Nguyen Tan Loc, and since 2009 he's dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Genta Fujikawa**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2008, since 2009 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Nguyen Huu Thuan**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2011, since 2012 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company, got Silver prize in 2012 at the International Modern Dance in Seoul, Korea.



**Tran Van Thinh**

Graduated at Vietnam Dance School in 2006, master for teaching at Ninomiya Ballet Dance Academy in 2011, since 2012 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Vo Thanh Binh**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2009, since 2009 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Mai Minh Anh Khoa**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2011, since 2012 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Nguyen Thanh Chung**

Graduated at Vietnam Dance School in 2009, since 2012 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Do Xuan Vuong**

Graduated at Vietnam Dance School in 2007, since 2011 he's the dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Le Duy Hai**

Graduated at Vietnam Circus School in 2009. Now he's studying in Hochiminh Dance school, and joining Arabesque Dance Company.

## Guest dancers



**Pham Nu Minh Tam**

Graduated from Hochiminh Dance School 1999, she has worked for Arabesque Dance Company as the dancer. Now she's teaching in dance school and still be the guest dancer of Arabesque.



**Ta Thuy Chi**

Graduated in 2007 from Guang Dong Dance School-China. She got the Bronze medal in the "Lotus Cup" contest in China 2005, A prize the "Young Dancing Talent" contest in VN; Scholarship for Choreography in China.



**Huynh Tran Khanh Chinh**

Graduated from Hochiminh Dance School in 2008, since 2010 she's guest dancer of Arabesque Dance Company, in 2011 she got the Bronze prize at International Modern Dance in Seoul, Korea.



**Dao Thuy Thuy Van**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2007, since 2012 she's guest dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**To Thi Thu Hang**

Trained by Nguyen Tan Loc, and since 2009 he's dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Nguyen Huynh Ha Phuong**

Graduated from Hochiminh Dance School 1999, she has worked for Arabesque Dance Company as the dancer. Now she's teaching in dance school and still be the guest dancer of Arabesque.



**Luu Thi Hoai Trang**

Graduated from Hochiminh Dance School 1999, she has worked for Arabesque Dance Company as the dancer. Now she's teaching in dance school and still be the guest dancer of Arabesque.



**Pham Bao Trung**

Graduated from Vietnam Dance School in 2004, he was dancer for The Ballet and Symphony Orchestra of HochiMinh City, worked for Arabesque in 2009. Since 2010 he's working in Staattheater in Darmstadt, Germany.



**Le Thanh Phong**

Graduated in 2006 from Hochiminh Dance School, was dancer of The ballet and Symphony Orchestra of Hochiminh City, and 2009, he worked for Arabesque Dance Company as the dancer. Since 2010 he's the dancer of Cinevox Junior Company in Switzerland.



**Pham Chi Cuong**

Graduated at HCM Dance School in 2007, since 2009 he's the guest dancer of Arabesque Dance Company.



**Dam Duc Nhuan**

Graduated from Vietnam Dance school in 2006, he's working in HBSO since graduated, and was the guest dancer of Arabesque in 2009.



**Ho Phi Diep**

Graduated from Vietnam Dance school in 2003, he's working in HBSO since graduated, and was the guest dancer of Arabesque in 2009.

# Open Stage ÂN KHẤU MỞ www.openstage.vn

Nowadays, thanks to the growth of information technology and the proliferation of new means of communication, we can engage with and appreciate almost any kind of art form, both in Việt Nam and throughout the world.

However there is a positive and negative side to everything. With so many different international art forms instantly available "on tap," how much of other people's creativity is either consciously or subconsciously recycled with minor modifications and presented as original work?

Starting from the premise that true, original creativity is the most important factor in art, we founded the "Open Stage" project in 2010 with the dual function of:

- encouraging performing artists to be creative and experiment with new ideas;
- connecting performing artists with audiences by providing a platform for exchange and discussion of ideas and experiences.

At Open Stage, performers and audience interact and integrate in a friendly and intimate manner. It's a playground for those who are interested in and passionate about art, devised with a view to inspiring and enhancing individual creativity in all artistic fields. It's a place to participate and experiment, to learn and discuss, to share and exchange your own experiences.

**SÂN KHẤU MỞ THÁNG 3:**  
"Moving Breath" - Nghệ sĩ Vũ Ngọc Khái

**OFF-NIBROLL & TIFFANY CHÚNG**  
15.16/9/2011 19:00 / 19:30

**ART IN THE AUDITORIUM  
MỸ THUẬT TRONG KHĂN PHÒNG**  
19:00 CHỖ NGỒI 4/2/2011

**ERASABLE**  
SÂN KHẤU THỬ NGHIỆM

**CHƯƠNG TRÌNH GIAO LƯU VÀ GIỚI THIỆU  
MỘT SỐ LOẠI HÌNH NGHỆ THUẬT THỬ NGHIỆM TRÊN SÂN KHẤU**



CHUYỆN KỂ

# Những chiếc giày

## The Story of The Shoes

*The Story of the Shoes* is not just about any old pair of shoes. The shoe has always been an integral part of the life of the professional dancer. The shoe shares moments in the dancer's life, sings and dances with the dancer, carries the dancer's passion and love, tears and laughter, hopes and despairs...

*The Story of the Shoes* also recounts the story of professional dancers who silently devote and sacrifice their lives to the fulfilment of their dreams – the dreams of bringing the art of dancing to a wider audience and passing it on to future generations.

*The Story of the Shoes* honours dance performers for their hard work practising difficult moves, despite of all of the worries in life.

*The Story of the Shoes* offers a slice of real life and passion in the dance world which will help the audience to feel, to understand, to share the belief and longing for those dreams to come true.

*"The Story of the Shoes has given the audience the emotions with all different scales of life."*

*"Combined with the effects of stage lighting and music tunes enchanting the souls, in The Story of The Shoes, the language of dance has conquered the audience, take them to the notes of quiet and privacy touched, and also push them up to the sublimation of emotional burst of desire."*

Thanh Nien's newspaper

Arabesque  
CHUYỆN KỂ  
Những chiếc giày

Một đêm diễn duy nhất  
**06.09.2009**

Lúc 20h00. Ngày 06/09/2009 Địa điểm: Nhà hát Lớn Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh  
Số 07 Công Trường Lam Sơn, phường Bến Nghé, quận 1, Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh

Đạo diễn chương trình: TẤN LỘC  
Biên đạo: NORIKO KUROE, HUY JOHN, NGỌC KHÁI, TÔ NHƯ, THANH PHƯƠNG, THUY CHI, MINH TÂM và TẤN LỘC  
Đội viên vũ đoàn: ARABESQUE: TS Như, Thủy Chi, Minh Tâm, Hà Phương, Thu Hằng, Hoà Trang, Thanh Phương, Hoàng Mai, Lê Lâm, Quỳnh Lê, Hà Anh, Bảo Trung, Quốc Hoa, Thanh Phong, Đức Nhuận, Phi Diệp, Thanh Bình, GenLe, Chi Cường, Xuân Thành, Kim Thảo...

VÉ CỎ BÀN TRÀ  
1. Nhà hát Lớn TP HCM - số 07 Công Trường Lam Sơn, phường Bến Nghé, Quận 1, TP HCM.  
2. Đăng ký mua vé qua điện thoại 0905 804 820 gặp Bảo Trân.



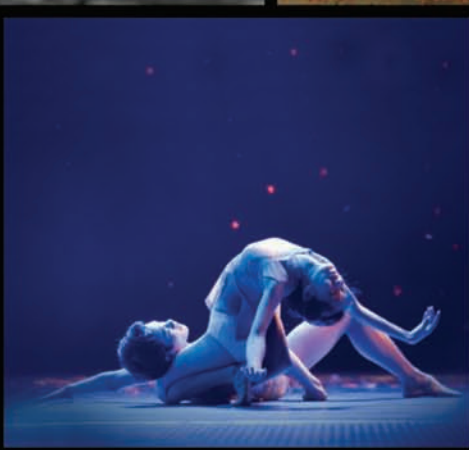
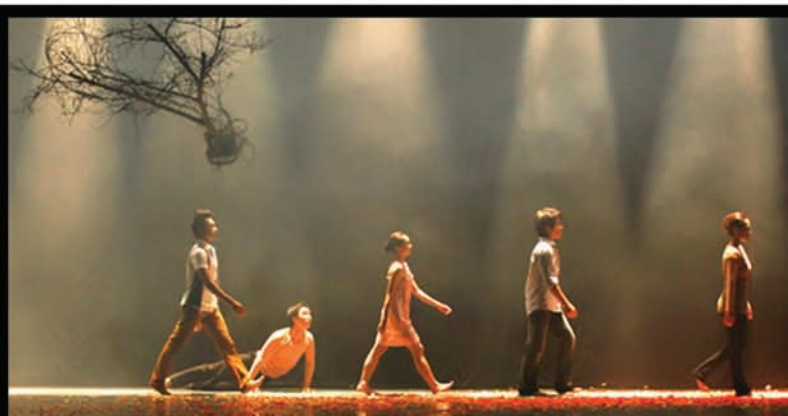
# MỘC

Mộc is a collaboration between three choreographers, Nguyen Ngoc Anh, Vu Ngoc Khai, Nguyen Tan Loc, depicting three different creative approaches to the theme of Mộc, all deeply imbued with deep shades of Việt Nam

**Nguyen Ngoc Anh:** Mộc represents the blossoming of something and the development of an individual's existence. Mộc is simplicity and the hunger for freedom. It is the breath of life from the earth and sunlight, converging, connecting.... Mộc is a symbol of strength and flexibility and yet it is fragile. The existence of Mộc is dependent on the love affair between plant life and the earth in which it grows.

**Vu Ngoc Khai:** The universe is the Creator's most perfect creation. It moves and connects endlessly and in relative harmony through the interaction of human to human and human to nature. When there is a strong circle of the Five Elements (Wood, Earth, Water, Fire and Metal), the connection between human and human vitalizes and strengthens the stability of the universe. Life is made up of endless movements and connections. Maybe that's the reason why life is always unusual and an inspiration for us to discover, no matter who we are...

**Nguyen Tan Loc:** Once I stood alone in the forest among huge old trees, wondering how big their roots must be to keep them stable and safe through the ravages of time, and when those green leaves would leave their branches forever.. and I felt so small.. Once I stood on the slope in front of a spacious meadow, seeing some bushes far away, reminding myself of someone's saying "when the storm comes, the small bushes may survive, but those big trees may fall down, who knows?" And I kept wondering if I could be as strong as those weak bushes...



# Sương sớm THE MIST

## The Mist

*The Mist* tells the story of farmers going about their familiar routine tasks in the early morning mist, such as tending the rice fields, husking the rice, preparing for early morning market...

A unique feature of this production is that it uses a unique contemporary dance language to depict Vietnamese farmers working diligently at daybreak, yet it is also imbued throughout with tradition and makes extensive use of plain and simple traditional working clothes and authentic rural props like bamboo carrying poles, rice seedlings, milled rice...

*The Mist* presents a panorama of the early morning working life of the Vietnamese farming community, portrayed with realism and agile grace.



Arabesque

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH BIỂU DIỄN MÙA ĐƯƠNG ĐẠI  
CONTEMPORARY DANCE

# Sương sớm THE MIST

Lúc/at: 20h00; Ngày/on: 22/01/2013  
Tại/at: RAP CÔNG NHÂN/ CÔNG NHÂN THEATER  
Add: 42 Tràng Tiền, Quận Hoàn Kiếm, Hà Nội

Đạo diễn/ Director: Tân Lộc  
Biên đạo/ Choreographer: Ngọc Anh, Ngọc Khôi, Tân Lộc, Thanh Phương

Diễn viên/ Arabesque/ Dancers: NGUYỄN TÀI MỸ, NGUYỄN KHÁI, MINH TÂM, QUỲNH LỖ, HẢI ANH, MẠI THỊ KHUÊ, KHUÊ CHINH, TRẦN PHƯƠNG, MINH THỊ, THUY KHUÊ, GIANG, VÂN THỊNH, HỒN THỊNH, THANH BÌNH, KAREN VƯƠNG, THANH CHANG, ANH KHUÊ, DUY HẢI

Nghệ sỹ âm thanh/ Monocloud Sound: HẢI PHƯƠNG  
Nghệ sỹ ánh sáng/ Hông Thuận

Áo nhạc/ Music: NHẬT LỘ, TÂN THẮT AN, HẢI PHƯƠNG, THANH TÂM, DUY DUY TANG  
Sân khấu Stage Design: Arabesque  
Thiết kế trang phục/ Costume: Thuận Mỹ và Thanh Tuấn  
Thiết kế đồ họa/ Graphic Design: Buzz Communication  
Hình ảnh/ Photography: Hạp Nhiên  
Điện và tổ chức: Dream Studio

ĐẶT VÉ TRƯỚC/ TICKET BOOKING: Dream Studio - 094 777 7818

CT CP TM DV TT & NHMKT 21-18 Đường số 4, Cầu Giấy, Hà Nội, Việt Nam, P.O. BOX 119430 MIAMI, FL 33109-0430  
www.arabesque.com.vn



## How to find us

We are based at the Le Thanh Theatre, a former cinema in Chinatown (District 5) which has been refurbished and transformed into studios and a small stage for practice and performance.

## Making contact

### **Á Nam Service Trading Advertising Communication JSC.**

87/21/6 Road #4, Do Thanh Housing Compound, ward 4, district 3, Hochiminh City, Vietnam.

**Office:** 365G Tran Hung Dao street, Cau Kho ward, district 1, Hochiminh City, Vietnam.

Phone: (+84) 3 50 70 145

Fax: (+84) 3 83 61 632

### **Arabesque, Le Thanh Theatre**

25 Phan Phu Tien, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Telephone: (+84) 9 03 96 0107

E-mail: tanlocdance@gmail.com, ngo\_tonhu@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.arabesque.com.vn>

### **Open Stage, Le Thanh Theatre**

25 Phan Phu Tien, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Telephone: (+84) 12 28 92 6510

E-mail: [openstage\\_hcm@hotmail.com](mailto:openstage_hcm@hotmail.com), [beebee\\_vn@hotmail.com](mailto:beebee_vn@hotmail.com)

Website: <http://www.arabesque.com.vn>, [www.openstage.vn](http://www.openstage.vn)

