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Bata Shoe Museum to Display Johnny Depp's Pirate Boots *- Captain Jack Sparrow's footwear swaggers into Toronto for the first time-*

TORONTO, ON, February 15, 2007 – All those worried about wearing the right shoes while they swashbuckle may set their minds at ease with a visit to the Bata Shoe Museum, which is displaying Johnny Depp's pirate boots from March 12 to April 1, 2007.

Worn by Depp in his role as the roguish and flamboyant Captain Jack Sparrow in the popular movie series *Pirates of the Caribbean*, these boots were made for looting and more. They have hijacked ships, fought duels, cooled their heels in the slammer, sneaked cursed Aztec coins, hidden on a cannibal island, and of course escaped execution at the last possible minute.

Sheila Knox, Education Manager at the Bata Shoe Museum, said, "Pirate boots varied immensely: rich pirates would have had fabulous, highly decorated pairs and poor pirates would have had cracked, worn-out and shoddy footwear. These soft suede boots suggest that Captain Jack Sparrow would have been a fairly, but not spectacularly, successful pirate. We're delighted to display them as they're a great complement to our newest exhibition, *Chronicles of Riches: Treasures from the Bata Shoe Museum*. The exhibition has inspired us to have some fun over March Break with a pirate theme. What could be a better fit than the footwear of a treasure-seeker?"

The Museum's March Break family week, running March 12 through March 16, will be a busy time for the boots as they will be much gazed at by would-be pirates. The best time for individual visitors to see the boots is starting Saturday March 17, when the March Break activities are over.

| more |

March 12 to April 1, 2007:

Pirate boots worn by Johnny Depp playing Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean*

On display at the Bata Shoe Museum

327 Bloor Street West at St. George, Toronto

About the Bata Shoe Museum

The Bata Shoe Museum is a centre of knowledge about the role of footwear in the social and cultural life of humanity. The Museum's growing international collection of over 12,000 objects touches on 4,500 years of history. A varied programme of events and exhibitions lets visitors discover the stories behind footwear from many lands and cultures. Current exhibitions include: *Chronicles of Riches: Treasures from the Bata Shoe Museum* (until January 2008), *Watched by Heaven, Tied to Earth: Summoning Animal Protection for Chinese Children* (until September 2007), *The Charm of Rococo: Femininity and Footwear in the 18th Century* (until September 2007) and *All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages* (semi-permanent). Online exhibitions include *All About Shoes* and *On Canadian Ground: Stories of Footwear in Early Canada*. The Bata Shoe Museum is located in downtown Toronto at 327 Bloor Street West, at the southwest corner of Bloor and St. George Streets. Further information is available at www.batashoemuseum.ca.