Alliance Boots celebrates putting Jesse Boot’s portrait on display at the National Portrait Gallery in London

Alliance Boots is delighted to mark the loan of a portrait of Jesse Boot to the National Portrait Gallery in London. Jesse Boot is an iconic figure in the history of the Boots brand, and widely regarded as one of the great entrepreneurs of the Victorian era. The portrait will be on display in the Gallery’s Science and Technology room for the next three years, alongside portraits of individuals who have influenced science and technology throughout the 19th century including scientist Charles Darwin and locomotive builder and railway engineer Robert Stephenson. This represents a prestigious endorsement both of Jesse’s forward-thinking contribution to making healthcare accessible to the wider community and the subsequent status of Boots as an historic brand and a household name in the UK.

Alliance Boots heritage combines Jesse Boot’s legacy with the international entrepreneurial vision that inspired the creation of the Group six years ago. Its strategy is underpinned by a continued focus on delivering products and services that meet the changing needs and expectations of consumers, pharmacists and pharmaceutical manufacturers. This vision has enabled the recent acceleration of the international development of the Boots brand.

At an event held today at the National Portrait Gallery in London to celebrate the loan of the Jesse Boot portrait, Stefano Pessina, Executive Chairman, Alliance Boots, commented: “This special evening gives us the opportunity to remember the legacy of Jesse Boot and the rich heritage of the Boots name, but also to celebrate the achievements of the Group. We have made excellent progress in strengthening the presence of the Boots brand both in the UK and internationally over the past few years and we continue to pursue our ambition to make Boots a truly global brand. We are proud of our heritage which is an invaluable asset for the future.”

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Editor’s Notes:

About Jesse Boot

The origins of the Boots brand date back to 1849 when John Boot offered customers an alternative to expensive traditional medicines by opening the first herbalist store in Nottingham. His son, Jesse, developed the family business by extending products and services. Through his unrivalled prices and great store network, he championed people’s right to accessible medicine earning Boots the reputation “Chemist to the Nation”. Jesse was fiercely proud of his roots and wanted the people of Nottingham to benefit from his success. He supported numerous local charitable causes which focused on health, education and housing.

About the National Portrait Gallery

The portrait of Jesse Boot is on display in Room 27, the Science and Technology room of the Victorian and Edwardian Galleries on Floor 1 of the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin’s Place WC2H 0HE London. Opening hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, 10am – 6pm (Gallery closure commences at 5.50pm). The gallery is open late on Thursday and Friday: 10am – 9pm (Gallery closure commences at 8.50pm). The nearest Underground is Leicester Square/Charing Cross. For general enquiries, call: 0207 306 0055. For recorded information, call: 020 7312 2463. Or alternatively, visit the website: www.npg.org.uk
About Alliance Boots

Alliance Boots is a leading international pharmacy-led health and beauty group offering a wide range of products and services to our customers working in close partnership with manufacturers and pharmacists. Our two core business activities are pharmacy-led health and beauty retailing and pharmaceutical wholesaling. Alliance Boots is privately-owned and employs over 115,500* people. Its wholesale and distribution network serves over 150,000* pharmacies, doctors, health centres and hospitals from over 370* pharmaceutical wholesale distribution centres in 21* countries. It operates more than 3,280* health and beauty retail stores in 11* countries, of which just under 3,180* have a pharmacy.

* Figures stated are as at 31 March 2011, are approximate and include associates and joint ventures.

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