

Council Chamber of the Town Hall, 104 Ferguson St, Williamstown, 7.30pm, Wednesday 31ST JULY, 2024.

Silent Running

SILENT RUNNING (1972). Throughout his career, visual effects giant Douglas Trumbull has preferred to employ his talents in the service of serious, thoughtful science fiction (*2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Blade Runner*). It's hardly a surprise, then, that he made his directorial debut at the helm of a similarly contemplative sci-fi flick that flopped upon its release but has always retained a modest following. *Silent Running* is set in a future that has seen humankind destroy all plant life, with what little that remains now flourishing aboard several spaceships designed to function as greenhouses until the plants can be returned to Earth. But when the crews all receive instructions to destroy their cargo, botanist Freeman Lowell (Bruce Dern), assigned to the spaceship Valley Forge, decides to rebel. He steers the ship toward Saturn, aided in his flight by three diminutive robots named Huey, Dewey and Louie. This plea for environmental awareness is clearly a product of the 1970s (two Joan Baez songs appear on the soundtrack) yet remains relevant today. One of the writers was Steven Bochco, eventually to become a TV legend thanks to his creation of countless hit series like *Hill Street Blues* and *L.A. Law*; the other scripters were Michael Cimino and Deric Washburn, later of the Best Picture Oscar winner *The Deer Hunter*.

FILM FRENZY - Posted by Matt Brunson 15 JANUARY 2021



Starbox Results

	5	4	3	2	1	Average
The Wind Rises	17	12	2	1	0	4.4

To watch a trailer (& read more) head to the 2024 program on our website

[https://: www.williamstown-film-society.org](https://www.williamstown-film-society.org)