Concluding remarks

At the outset it was clear to me that a full blown production of *OMA: Ausländer und Staatenlose* would not only tax the meager resources available to the project, it would be near on impossible to fund. Traditionally, arts funding bodies do not fund academic research. This was the first; perhaps most significant change made to the original proposal – from live to online interactive.

However, during the course of the project, as outlined in the previous section, a number of live and on-demand netcasts were initiated. These provided answers to questions the project was originally to address, although the process to get to them was more random, more *generative* than traditional forms of research.

Laurie Anderson remarked that, "Technology today is the campfire around which we tell our stories."[1] With that in mind, and as this new campfire was to become more than text and ones imagination, and as the difference between the Web and CD-ROM interactives began to blur, I chose to pour *Ausländer* into a Web site, a virtual representation of the opera produced entirely, in its original form, without any plugins.

In some way, *Ausländer Micro* is representative of the proposed live performance. The artwork designed for each of its four scenes is derived from the image resources and concepts that would have been utilised on stage. The libretto can be read in association with the scene effects much like they would be narrated within a live performance. The soundtrack, now utilising the Flash plugin, is reminiscent of the generative underscore that would provide the atmospheric ebb and flow to a sung libretto.

The story is still being told and retold in combinations unique to each visitor to the web site. *Ausländer Micro*, as the name suggests, is the opera collapsed into an experience that will never replace the stage, but can and does provide its users[2] with a window to a world, to stories that would otherwise go undocumented and uncharted in the general practice of recorded history.

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[1] McCorduk, P 1994, Multi-Mediatrix, *Wired*, 2.03, pg81.
[2] Ausländer Guestbook, [online] http://www.toysatellite.com.au/as_guestb/ [Accessed July 2000].