Khecari is based in Chicago-Zhigaagoong, historically a crossroads for many including the Sauk, Fox, Miami, Illinois, Kickapoo, Mascouten, Wea, Delaware, Winnebego, Menominee, Mesquaki, Ho-Chunk, Ottawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi. Today it is home to individuals representing over three hundred tribes. We recognize both the importance and insufficiency of land acknowledgments. Our full statement is at khecari.org/values.

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This is a second iteration presentation of a project that will continue to be developed and presented. as though was conceived in 2015 by Jonathan Meyer, who began reading, writing, and movement research for the work in 2017. Meyer was joined in 2019 by Tom Lee, Sara Zalek, Lauren Kunath, and Joe St.Charles for the second stage of development, fleshing out the puppets’ design and function, creating a movement palette, a choreographic rough draft, and a sound rough draft. They were joined in 2022 by Arden Lapin, Amanda Maraist, and Margo O’Connell for the third stage of development, moving that rough draft to this first iteration performance. Kevin Spafford joined for a residency intensive to add sound elements as St.Charles created the first iteration sound score. Meyer created this work in collaboration with the other artists, who have contributed concrete ideas, improvisational findings, and the lived working-through of material that manifests a project. All artists have contributed to the conversations that have generated communication and safety protocols to care for performers and audience members alike.

Kate Fiello – care & support consultant
Lauren Kunath – puppetry performance development
Arden Lapin – puppetry performance
Tom Lee – puppet design & creation
Amanda Maraist – dance performance
Jonathan Meyer – direction, choreography, set design & construction, lighting design, dance performance
Anna Minkov – care & support consultant
Margo O’Connell – puppetry performance
Joe St.Charles – music/sound creation & composition
Kevin Spafford – music/sound creation
Ian Vecchiotti – photography, videography
Sara Zalek – dance performance (first iteration)

Artist biographies and further information about this project can be found at khecari.org.