

# Planet A

## Portable Melanometer

[1:20]

**Lighting:** Up full

*An actor [Actor 4] enters from stage right, carrying a wooden spoon, which he holds up for the audience to see.*

**Screen:** [wooden spoon, diagram of skin structure, melanin molecule]

**Actor:** Ok, I know what you're thinking. You probably think this is a wooden spoon, but *you would be wrong!* What I am holding in my hand is actually a high tech device called a *melanometer*. With this device I can measure the precise amount of melanin in a person's skin up to a distance of 100 meters with *more than 100 percent accuracy!*

You can use this handy device to confirm *every one* of your idiotic biases about other people, based on nothing but meaningless melanin! So very helpful.

*The actor mimes turning the device on.*

**Screen:** Indication of position of "confirmation bias" switch on the device.

**Actor:** Just flip the confirmation bias switch to "on," and you're good to go! Let's try it out on some of you in the audience. The readings will appear on the screen behind me.

*The actor points the melanometer at someone in the audience.*

**Screen:** Micronesian

**Actor:** Huh. Well, let's try someone else.

*He points the melanometer at someone else in the audience.*

**Screen:** Gray

**Actor:** Whoops! Sorry, folks.

*The actor whacks the melanometer hard a couple of times.*

**Actor:** Let's try again.

**Screen:** Black...Irish

**Actor:** Hey, this thing isn't confirming my prejudices at all! Ok, one last try.

*He points the melanometer at one final choice of audience member.*

**Screen:** Pure as the driven slush

**Actor:** *(seething with frustration)* HENRY! SOMEBODY BROKE THE MELANOMETER!

*The actor storms off to stage left.*

**Lighting:** Blackout

**Screen:** [picture of albino person]

I broke the melanometer.

I am a pink person.

Pink Power!

[hand with pinky extended, and the pinky is pink]

Would you like to do the Linky *Pinky* with me?