



# Get Out

Arizona's premier entertainment & lifestyle guide

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Australia's John Butler Trio may have been Saturday's headliner at the McDowell Mountain Music Festival, but it was the blues-harp histrionics of Blues Traveler frontman John Popper — one of the greatest blues harpists to ever throw down on the harmonica — that stole the show on the final day of the popular two-day jam band fest at West World of Scottsdale.

SLIDESHOW: Day two

SLIDESHOW: Day one

Popper — who has made news in recent years for both gastric bypass surgery and arrests for drug possession — was at top of his game on Saturday, showcasing his ability to rip up harp solos on such tunes as his band's popular 1990s hit "Run-around," "The Mountains Win Again," and "But Anyway" and a wild version of Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler." Whipping up the estimated 10,000 attendees, Popper and co. also covered the Charlie Daniels Band's "The Devil Went Down to Georgia"; Popper made an opening-line substitution — "the devil went down to Scottsdale" — drawing a roar from the crowd.

The John Butler Trio, superstars in their native Australia (where two of the group's disc's, "Three and "Living 2001-2002," have gone platinum), played a tight set of originals such as "Better Than" and "What You Want," fleshing out their performance with a lengthy drum and percussion solo as a dust storm blew threw the outdoor festival.

The Wailers, best known as reggae legend Bob Marley's backing band, played several of the late singer's classics, including "One Love," "I Shot the Sheriff" and "Jammin'," as the sun set over West World.

Jacksonville, Florida's JJ Grey and Mofro played a popular set on the main stage, playing original tunes that sounded like classic Stax/Volt R&B and also getting the crowd to join in on a call-and-response version of the Muddy Waters blues classic "Got My Mojo Workin'."

On the side stage, sponsored by Valley-based Internet radio station Creamy Radio, Tempe bluegrass combo The Breadwinners stirred up the crowd, playing a mix of originals and bluegrass classics, while up-and-coming Tempe band Dorsey, fresh off a mainstage slot at the Tempe Music Festival last month, played an acoustic set.

## Music

