

Singer Buika blazes
on her brand-new album

Flamenco queen

By JAVIER L. ORELLANA



Omar Ayyash

YOU KNOW YOU'RE hot when world-famous director Pedro Almodóvar doesn't want a party in his honor if you're not the entertainment. That was the case last summer when friends were planning to fete the auteur and he purportedly said forget it if Buika wasn't singing.

This Nubian flamenco queen is beloved not just by Almodóvar, but, it

seems, all of Spain.

She became an instant success two years ago in her native country — she was born on Mallorca to Equatorial Guinea parents — with her song “Jodida Pero Contenta,” (“F---d but Happy”), a Spanish take on “I Will Survive,” but with a twist. The object of her vocal tirade is female.

The singer lives an unconventional life, to say the least. She was recently married to both a man and a woman.

To listen to Buika is to read her diary. She belts

out songs about Sapphic and hetero love, heartache, immigration, cultural identity and more.

“Music is to be able to love and have a lover with no need to touch them and to be able to see the deepest parts of that person,” says Buika, whose latest album, “Niña de Fuego” is up for a Latin Grammy for Album of the Year.

“You kiss their essence because when you sing you can't lie, and you can't lie when you listen.”

“Niña de Fuego” is in stores now.