

'He was, without doubt, a prodigy, and wrote some of his most brilliant pieces while very young,' Lewis explains. 'But when you have such an instinctive gift, at some point you have to make a difficult transition to a more conscious, mature style and I think he was trying to work that out when he died, when he was only in his late thirties.'

She's also keen to dispel the myths over that death: 'He's saddled with the image of a drunken Welshman, so people tend to think he died of drink, but he was actually suffering from pneumonia. There's no doubt that he was an alcoholic, but you have to remember that there was less understanding at that time about the hazards of addiction, and its connection with mental illness. He said of himself "I hold a beast, an angel and a madman in me, and my enquiry is as to their working, and my problem is their subjugation and victory, downthrow and upheaval, and my effort is their self-expression".'

She hopes that the event, which will include Thomas's biographer Andrew Lycett and young Welsh poet Owen Sheers, will also paint a fuller picture of Thomas: 'He wasn't just a poet: he was a great, comic prose writer, a screen-writer and a pioneer of talking books. He was a very generous performer, and we're lucky to have recordings of the poetry of his contemporaries which he also chose to read. His wonderful anthology of the poetry he liked to read, *The Colour of Saying*, is one of my absolute favourites, and still in print.'

*This event will be part of the official Dylan Thomas 100 celebrations and supported by the Welsh Government. For more information on anniversary events see [www.dt100.info](http://www.dt100.info)*

**Words on Monday**  
**Dylan Thomas: In My Craft**  
*curated by Poet in the City*  
10 February  
*See Listings p67 for details*



THE MORE I'VE RE-READ  
THOMAS, THE MORE  
I SEE HIS INTELLECT  
MATCHED THE MUSIC  
OF HIS POETRY



2 DECEMBER

**Literary Death Match**  
feat. Stephanie Merritt, Mark  
Billingham & Andi Magnason

2 DECEMBER

**Edna O'Brien**  
*The Love Object*

9 DECEMBER

**Carlos Acosta**  
*Pig's Foot*

16 DECEMBER

**Rock'n' Roll Politics**  
Steve Richards & Guests

13 JANUARY

**The Shelf-Help Sessions**

**12 Reasons  
to Feel Better**  
with Jeanette Winterson  
and Stephen Grosz

20 JANUARY

**Grammar**  
with David Marsh

27 JANUARY

**Germain Greer**  
*The Rainforest Years*

3 FEBRUARY

**Bedsit Disco Queen:**  
Tracey Thorn

10 FEBRUARY

Poet in the City presents...

**Dylan Thomas:  
In My Craft**

17 FEBRUARY

**Connecting  
Conversations**

3 MARCH

Photovision

**Nick Danziger**

10 MARCH

**Reprieve**

Clive Stafford Smith