

'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

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

Reprive

Clive Stafford Smith